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LETTERS

TO

GEORGE, EARL OF ABERDEEN,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND.

MDC LXXXI—MDC LXXXIV.

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ILLUSTRATIVE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN SCOTLAND,

1831-1834
ADDRESSED BY

CONTEMPORARY STATESMEN

TO

GEORGE, EARL OF ABERDEEN,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND.

M DC LXXXI—M DC LXXXIV.

George Aberdeens

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To d. 11.2.52

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Letters presented in this Volume derive one chief point of interest from their association with the distinguished Statesman to whom they are addressed. They, for the most part, consist of communications of an official or semi-official character, transmitted to the first Earl of Aberdeen while filling the high office of Chancellor of his native country. And they fall in with the historical narrative of the time at the period when the influence of the Duke of York, in Scottish affairs, had attained complete ascendancy.

The natural introduction to these Letters will be a brief sketch of the previous history of the distinguished minister who is here presented before us at the busiest season of his chequered life,—the culminating point of his fortunes.

We encounter the future Earl of Aberdeen in his-

tory at a very early age,—before he had reached his seventh year. It is in connection with that brilliant and daring exploit, known by the appellation of “Haddo’s Raid ;” when Sir John Gordon of Haddo, his father, with a handful of men, surprised the town of Aberdeen, at that time closely watched and guarded by the Covenanting party. In the first light of a spring morning (19th March, 1644), this bold cavalier, attended by some other gentlemen, and with a small troop of about threescore horse following his banner, came galloping through Old Aberdeen to New Aberdeen, and suddenly made prisoners of the Provost and chief men of the city. After sundry acts of violence, the usual concomitants of such raids, “thay,” in the words of the quaint chronicler of the time, “go to hors schortlie, and cumis bak throw the old toun, about ten houris in the morning, with thair four captives ; and, but bo to thair blanket, thay rode doun throw the Gallowget, none daring to say it wes evill done. Suirlye it is to be markit the like seldom hes been sein that so few men so pertlie and publictlye sould have disgraceit sic a brave brughe by taking away thair provest, and the rest men of note, without ony kynd of contradictioun or obstacill.”¹

At this time Haddo’s children were living, for education, in Old Aberdeen ; but, doubtless, fearing for their safety after this rude exploit, he “takis his young barnis at scooll hame behinde sum of his servandis.”² And thus riding in this sort of wild triumph, the future Earl first

¹ Spalding’s Memorials of the Troubles in Scotland and in England, 1624–1645. Vol. ii., pp. 324, 325.—[Spalding Club Ed.]

² Spalding’s Memorials, vol. ii., p. 325.

appears upon the scene of those troubled and unhappy times.

On the next day, however, Sir John Gordon sent back all his children except his eldest son. Our Chancellor was the second son. He was born on the 3rd of October, 1637, and his mother was Mary, daughter of William Forbes of Tolquhon.

Disastrous events quickly followed the evanescent success of this achievement. The unstable and inconsistent policy of the Marquis of Huntly, the King's Lieutenant in the north, prevented the Royalist leaders from concentrating their forces ; and Sir John Gordon, who had been appointed by the King next in command to the Marquis, retired before the Covenanting army, to his house of Kellie. After a brief resistance, he was forced to yield to the overwhelming force by which he was assailed. He was made prisoner, and the house of Kellie taken possession of by his enemies. His children, including the future Earl, appear to have been gathered around him in this last struggle. The chronicler says "He had sex young children within the place of Kellie ; which, when it was rendered, were all put to the yett saif and sound."¹

Sir John's homeless family having thus been turned out of doors, the work of destruction began. "Statelie wes the plenishing within this hous, and plesant yardis and planting about the samen ;"² exclaims our annalist ; and in the thought of this grandeur he seems to revel after his own fashion in his description of its spoiling and

¹ Spalding's *Memorials*, vol. ii., p. 368, 369.

² *Ibid*, p. 358.

ruin. "And first," he says, "they take out the staitlie insicht and plenishing, sic as bedding, naprie, veschel caldrouns, chandleris, fyre veschell, quhair of their wes plentie, kists, cofferis, cabinetis, trunkis; and all other plenishing and armour . . . quhilk thay could get careit on hors or foot wes takin away south; togidder with the haill oxin, nolt, ky, hors, meiris, and scheip, . . . and not ane four-footed beast left that they could get. When thir commodeteis wes plunderit and spolyeit, than they began to wirk upone the tymber wark quhilkis war fixt; and thair they cruellie brak down the wanescot burdis, bedis, capalmeris, tymber wallis, sylrins, toome girnellis and the lyk, and maid fyre of all. Thay took out the iron yettis, iron stancheonis of windois, brak down the glassin windois, and left nather yett, dur, nor wyndo onbrokin down; and, in effect, left thame desolat befor they removit."¹ Thus was the goodly house of Kellie spoiled and laid waste.

Meantime Sir John Gordon was carried to Edinburgh, where his fate was soon sealed. From the scaffold, where he died the proto-martyr of loyalty in the north, he commended to the King's protection the future Chancellor and his five brethren,—“in a little short prayer, saying: ‘I recommend my saull to God, and my sex children to his Majesteis cair, for whose saik I die this day.’”² And so he passed boldly and calmly to his death. “Aluayes this valeant worschipfull knight is done to death efter this maner, to the gryt greif of his kin and friendis,

¹ Spalding's *Memorials*, vol. ii., p. 369.

² *Ibid*, p. 390.

and of his sex children, now both fatherles and motherles, and bot young barnes also.”¹ “ And albeit Haddoch was ane auncient barron of good estait, and still ane loyall subiect to the king; hardie, stout, bold in all haserdis; freind to his freind, and terribill to his enemy; of a good lyf and conversatioun, moderat, temperat, and religious; loth and vnwilling still to give offence, and als loth to tak offence; and with all ane good nichtbour, loving and kynd to his tennentis, kinsfolkis, and freindis: yit thus he endit.”²

The children of Sir John Gordon being thus bereft of parents and estate, “ friendis took thrie of them, and uther thrie wes sent into Old Abirdene for lerning at the scoollis; bot had not ane penny of thair father’s estait bestowit upone thame.”³

The future Earl was one of those sent to Old Aberdeen; where, next, he presents himself as a distinguished scholar in King’s College. Here he studied under John Strachan, who enjoyed a great reputation for learning.⁴ He took his Master’s degree in the year 1658; and it is mentioned that he was promoted to his degree first in order before the others of his own class or year.

A scene occurred at this time on the occasion of the public exercises, previous to Professor Strachan’s class

¹ Spalding’s Memorials, vol. ii., p. 390.

² Ibid, vol. ii., pp. 390, 391.

³ Ibid, p. 369.

⁴ Orem, the worthy town clerk of Old Aberdeen, says that he “ was the best scholar that ever was in the college. But the Cants and the rest of the clergy in Aberdeen had prejudice at him, because he was a royalist; and because his uncle, Sir John Strachan, was with King Charles II. . . . He was a gentleman, and a pretty man both in parts and in body, and undervalued all the Cants.” Orem’s Description of the Chanonry, Cathedral, and King’s College of Old Aberdeen, pp. 177, 178. Aberdeen, 1791.

proceeding to their degree, which led to the retirement of this learned and accomplished, but somewhat keen tempered gentleman. Mr. Andrew Cant, one of the Regents of Marischal College, having, in conjunction with certain of the clergy of Aberdeen, impugned a thesis published by him, a public disputation ensued, which appears to have been conducted with considerable irregularity and want of temper; and Strachan the next day resigned in disgust. At his request, the College appointed to the vacant regency his distinguished pupil, "who thus became a professor the day after he ceased to be a student."¹

This took place in March, 1658, at the close of the college session or term; it being then the practice of the Scotch universities (as it continued to be till recently) to keep only one term, namely, during the winter and spring time. Our young professor, who had barely reached majority, entered on his duties in King's College with the winter session of 1658. The memorials of his connection with this learned corporation are but slight;² for it had scarcely begun before changes happened which opened to him new prospects and a higher ambition. Nevertheless, with that calm and steadfast purpose which appears to have been a distinguishing characteristic of his life, he remained at the post of duty he had once undertaken, till, in accordance with the usage of his college at that time,

¹ Douglas's Description of the East Coast of Scotland (1782), p. 211. Orem's Old Aberdeen, p. 178.

² His name merely occurs in some of the *sederunts* of the meetings of the *senatus* of the college. The last entries are on 9th and 16th February, 1663.

The Earl of Aberdeen was elected a common councillor of the city of Old Aberdeen on 14th October, 1661. Orem's Old Aberdeen, p. 91.

he had conducted his class through the prescribed course of arts and philosophy. This extended over a period of four years and sessions. When his students proceeded to their Master's degree, he resigned his regency or professorship, at the close of the session of 1662-63.¹

At the time when the Earl of Aberdeen, in the spring of 1658, became the successor of Professor Strachan, the aspect of public affairs offered the most gloomy prospect to the members of a family so signally distinguished for adherence to the cause of loyalty. The Cromwell usurpation was established in complete, and apparently sure ascendancy. But, in a few months, the scene was changed. The death of Cromwell, in the following autumn, burst the spell which his potent arm had so long controuled; and the feeble effort of his successor to sustain the same responsibilities only more surely prepared the way for the restoration of the royal authority.

The family of Haddo were not forgotten at the restoration of constitutional government, although it does not appear that they had any other benefit conferred on them save the bare act of justice of rescinding the forfeiture of their title and estates. In the first Scottish Parliament held after the King's return, an Act was passed for this purpose,² which made honourable mention of Sir John Gordon's heroic conduct and sufferings,—his faithfulness and loyalty to the King and his authority: whereof he gave signal testimony, "by hazarding all he had for it in

¹ Orem's Old Aberdeen, p. 178.

² Appendix A, p. 169. Acts of Parliament of Scotland, vol. vii. pp. 102, 103.

his lifetime, and sealing it with his blood in the end." In consequence of this Act, the eldest brother of the future Earl recovered possession of the family estate.

Notwithstanding these changes, and the brightening aspect of affairs, the Earl of Aberdeen, as already mentioned, remained at King's College till the spring of 1663, when, having resigned his chair, he shortly afterwards went abroad, resolving to devote himself to the science of law. This study he prosecuted with that diligence and application which had so conspicuously marked his previous career.¹

The death of his elder brother, in March, 1667, recalled him from the continent. For Sir John, having died without male issue,² the estate and baronetcy devolved on his next brother, now Sir George Gordon.³

Soon after his return, Sir George Gordon became a member of the Scottish bar, having, on the 7th of February, 1668, after the usual preliminary trials, been admitted by the Lords of Session "in and to the place and office of ane ordinarie advocat before them."⁴ And, although Sir George was now no longer dependent on his profession, this cir-

¹ Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*, p. 230.

² Sir John Gordon (the chancellor's brother) married a daughter of Alexander, Lord Pitsligo. The only issue of his marriage was a daughter, afterwards the wife of Sir John Gordon of Lismore. Sir John Gordon of Haddo was one of the commissioners under the Act of the Convention of Estates of 23rd January, 1667. *Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*, vol. vii., p. 543.

³ Sir George Gordon was served heir to his brother, Sir John, 10th September, 1669. *Inquisit. Retornat. Abbreviatio, Aberdeen*, 392, 393.

⁴ *Books of Sederunt of the Lords of Session*, vol. vi. p. 252. Sir George Gordon had been examined by the Faculty of Advocates, preparatory to his admission, on "Saturday, 4th January, 1668."—*Minutes of the Faculty*, vol. (1662-1750), p. 23.

cumstance, as it did not turn him aside from entering upon it, no less abated his zeal in its prosecution. In one respect, however, it influenced his conduct in a manner which evinced the high motives and disinterested principles which guided him in his honourable calling. For it is related, on satisfactory authority, that, notwithstanding his growing reputation, and although "he had abundance of clients, and many of them persons of the first rank in the nation," he never took any fees as an advocate.¹

We are now arrived at the period when Sir George Gordon entered upon public life. In the year following his call to the bar, he was elected one of the commissioners to represent the county of Aberdeen in the second Parliament of Scotland, held by King Charles II. This Parliament assembled on the 19th October, 1669; and one of the first questions submitted to it regarded certain proposals for a negotiation with a view to the union of the kingdoms of England and Scotland. It was a matter which had already begun to be the subject of considerable excitement out of doors, and was popularly regarded with much aversion, being viewed as an attempt to overthrow the national independence. The proposals were embodied in a letter under the King's hand, laid before the Parliament by the Duke of Lauderdale, who attended as his Majesty's commissioner. On this letter being read, an

¹ Crawford says, "This particular act of uncommon generosity in the Lord Chancellor, I have had attested by several noble persons who knew the truth thereof, some of whom are still alive."—*Lives of the Officers of State*, p. 231. It is sufficient to confront Burnet's posthumous slander, as to the Earl of Aberdeen's covetousness and rapacity, with a single piece of real evidence like this.

answer was proposed to it, assenting to, and even going beyond, its terms; and the immediate adoption of this return was rudely pressed upon the house by the commissioner. It was no light matter, as public affairs were in those days managed, to resist the pleasure of the minister in power; yet we find Sir George Gordon, almost singly, offering a bold and manly opposition to the rash and arbitrary course thus urged upon Parliament by the royal commissioner. A day's delay on a subject of such importance had been desired by Sir George Mackenzie, afterwards Lord Advocate: "Not that I design," as he said on the following day, "absolutely to gratify these popular delusions which have grown up against this intended union; but that I wish this Parliament would so far indulge this pardonable zeal as to consider maturely and slowly this so great an affair; that the people may be convinced that we are as jealous of their liberties as they could wish us; and that England may know that we are not so weary of our liberties as not to think them worthy of our exactest pains." Sir George Gordon seconded the motion for delay, and supported it by additional arguments. Among other things, he urged that, before the Parliament could condescend to nominate commissioners to treat of the proposed union, they behoved to debate whether the propositions themselves were convenient or not; and, in considering these, he farther pointed out that they would meet with considerable difficulties, particularly in the matter of the succession to the crown, in case his Majesty, and the other descendants of James VI., should die without issue; since the

lines of succession in England and Scotland were different, and would, in such event, divide. This speech appears to have roused the indignation of the commissioner, for it is related that "he rose in a great passion," and announced that he consented to the delay asked; but that he understood not how any member of Parliament could be so bold as to enquire into the succession, upon a supposition that his Majesty and all the existing royal line should fail. The answer to the King's letter was agreed to on the following day.¹ Nothing, however, it is well known, came out of this movement; and there is but too much reason to believe that this was what its promoters intended.

Sir George, along with Adam Urquhart of Meldrum, continued to represent the county of Aberdeen in the following sessions of this Parliament, held in the years 1670,

¹ Sir George Mackenzie's *Memoirs of the Affairs of Scotland*, pp. 148-155. Kirkton's account, in the main, corresponds with that given by Sir George Mackenzie:—"The next thing done, was the reading of the King's letter to the same purpose, wherein the King made high professions of making the island happy by a perfyte union, which (he said) should raise his satisfaction as high as his wishes. So the first question in Parliament was concerning this designed union, and, indeed, there was no man so bold as to oppose it; onely one gentleman there was, Sir George Gordon of Haddo, (tho' afterward he learned better to comply with Court designes,) who made bold to represent one difficulty in the union, and it was this, what should become of the crown of Scotland, in case such a thing should happen that King James his family were extinct; at present both crowns have one heir to succeed in the divided kingdomes, but, if the two kingdomes were united, which of the heirs should succeed to the double crown. Shall Segnior the English heir succeed to the crown of Scotland? This shall be a prejudice to Hamilton the Scottish heir, and so unjust. Or shall Hamilton succeed to the crown of England? This shall be ane injury to Segnior the English heir, and so unjust likeways. I never heard of ane answer to this objection, beside reproach and scoffe, from the commissioner."—Kirkton's *Secret and True History of the Church of Scotland*; edited by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, pp. 301-303.

1672, and 1673, and also in the Convention of Estates, assembled at Edinburgh in June, 1678.¹

Whatever transient feeling Sir George Gordon's independent bearing at the outset of his Parliamentary career may have excited, his acquirements as a lawyer, his eminent abilities, and business habits, soon made themselves felt, and, before long, led to his employment in the work of the house, in those committees which practically governed all its deliberations, and to his advancement otherwise. On 11th November, 1678, he was nominated one of the King's privy council for Scotland;² and, on the demise of Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie, he was, in his room, promoted to be one of the ordinary Lords of Session: on the 8th of June, 1680, he took his seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of Scotland, under the title of Lord Haddo.³

For many years the government of Scotland had been in the hands of the Duke of Lauderdale, and the state of the country at this time bore unhappy traces of the cha-

¹ Sir John Lauder says:—"Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, and Sir George Gordon of Haddow, appeared very zealously for the Commissioner's interest throughout all this Convention; but was thought a remarkable change of the lubricity and inconstancy of humane affairs."—*Historical Observes*. App. No. 2, p. 279.

² Crawford's *Lives*, p. 231. Wodrow's *History*, vol. ii. p. 503. [Ed. 1831.] "At this time a great addition is made to the council. September 16th, by a letter from the King, John, Lord Bishop of Galloway, is admitted a counsellor, and added to the committee for public affairs. October 9th, Mr. Richard Maitland of Gogar is admitted a counsellor. November 11th, Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, and Sir George Gordon of Haddo, are admitted counsellors. November 21st, the Marquis of Montrose is made captain of the horse-guards. And, December 12th, John Drummond of Lundin is added to the council."

³ Books of Sederunt, vol. vii. Lord Haddo's letter of appointment is dated at Whitehall, 4th April, 1680.

racter of his administration. The particulars of the history of his unrighteous policy need not, however, be examined here. It was certainly an evil time when the reins of authority were committed to him ; for, even with the most earnest and high-minded devotion to the service of his country, the result would probably have been very doubtful. But habitual trifling with high responsibilities,—the direct abuse of power,—the utter neglect of positive duties,—left a miserable legacy to his successors in office and to posterity. Among recent events, the country had been lately shocked and convulsed by the assassination, in open day, of the Archbishop of St. Andrew's, and by the attempted rebellion which has been associated with the place of its discomfiture, on the banks of the Clyde, at Bothwell bridge ; and other signs were accumulating, which betokened a time that would be able to endure neither its disorders nor their remedy.

Sir George Gordon's position as a Lord of Session, a Privy Councillor, and an influential member of the Scottish legislature, brought him, for the first time, prominently into contact with the State transactions of this period, towards the close of Lauderdale's administration. The Duke of York arrived in Edinburgh on 4th December, 1679, and took up his residence for three months at Holyrood. This brief visit to Scotland was, in the first instance, intended merely to serve a temporary emergency in English politics ; but his presence there, although not supported by any official character, produced a strong and favourable impression ; and his return, in October

of the following year, 1680, with a sort of vice-regal authority, completely superseded Lauderdale's influence in Scottish affairs.

One of the first and most important measures promoted by the Duke of York, on his undertaking the administration in Scotland, was the assembling of a Parliament, which accordingly met on the 28th of July, 1681, the Duke himself attending as the Royal Commissioner. In the proceedings of this Parliament, Sir George Gordon appears to have taken an active and prominent part. He was, at its opening, nominated one of the Lords of the Articles; he acted as one of the leaders for the Government in conducting the business of the house; and, throughout its discussions, he distinguished himself as a powerful and efficient advocate of the Duke's administration.¹ The opposition, during the sittings of this Parliament, was conducted with much keenness and vigour, but the Government were, in general, supported by a majority of from thirty to forty votes.

One incident in the business of the Session, in which they were not attended by so complete success, opened the path for the advancement of Lord Haddo² to a higher

¹ Sir John Lauder says that he was one of "the great champions and Hectors who managed the debate on the Duke of York's syde during all this Parliament." It is worthy of notice that Sir John, whose prejudices and political bias were most strongly opposed to the Duke, while he charges him with want of wisdom and great conduct, appears to grant freely that he had "honestie, justice, and courage enough" in his Scottish administration.—Sir John Lauder's (*Lord Fountainhall*) *Historical Notices of Scottish Affairs*, vol. i., p. 327.

² This was the title by which Sir George Gordon was designated as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. It is characteristic of the keenness of party to find an objection in the proceedings of Parliament to his being recognised in the House by this title of courtesy.—*Fountainhall's Historical Notices*, vol. i., p. 323.

dignity. It was the conduct of Sir James Dalrymple of Stair, the President of the Session, in regard to the Act for imposing the oath called The Test. After failing in defeating the Act itself, this able and wily politician succeeded in carrying an insidious amendment on the oath, by which he hoped to paralyse the working of the measure. The crafty engineer, however, was destined to "hoist upon his own petard." He refused to take the Test, even as altered by himself; and, in consequence, retired out of the country to Holland, all his attempts to propitiate the King having failed.¹

Sir George Gordon was promoted to the office of President of the Supreme Court, which had thus become vacant. His commission is dated 14th October, 1681. It also embodied a new commission for the whole Court, in which the names of four of the ordinary and one of the extraordinary lords were omitted, certain others being substituted in their room. The Court of Session, as thus newly modelled, met for the first time on 1st November, 1681.²

Lord Haddo continued for so short a period to sit upon the bench, either as an Ordinary Judge or as President of the Court of Session, that we can expect to find in our law books but faint traces of his legal learning and abilities. We have, however, the testimony of one but little removed from being a contemporary. He says:—"Without any design of detracting from any of his lordship's

¹ See Note, p. 3, and Letter I., pp. 3, 4.

² Books of Sederunt, vol. viii.—Appendix B, pp. 170—172.

predecessors in office, it was universally observed and taken notice of, that as justice was never better administered, or a quicker dispatch in business, so many causes that had very long depended before the lords were then determined: which raised the Lord President's reputation very high, and exceedingly recommended him to men of all qualities and degrees."¹

Among those who had looked forward to bearing a part in the circumstances of unwonted pomp and state which distinguished the sitting down of the Parliament of 1681, was John Leslie, Duke of Rothes, the Chancellor of Scotland. He had, in the preceding October, entertained, with noble hospitality, the Duke of York and his Duchess, Mary Beatrice of Modena, on their arrival from England, and he had hoped to be able to preside in the Parliament about to be assembled, with such magnificence, under their auspices. Not many hours, however, before its meeting he expired,² and the assembly had to be opened without a Chancellor. And, meanwhile, the appointment of a successor to this high office had been delayed, no public step having been taken in the matter till after the Duke of York's return from London in May, 1682.

The first announcement of the appointment of a new Chancellor was made under extraordinary circumstances—amid the wild confusion of a calamitous shipwreck. The Duke of York had embarked for Scotland on board

¹ Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of the Crown and of the State in Scotland*, p. 231.

² He died during the night of the 26th of July, 1681: the Parliament met on the morning of the 28th.

the *Gloucester* frigate, accompanied by Lord Haddo and a numerous retinue of the Scottish nobility and gentry. But they had not proceeded long on their voyage when the ill-fated ship struck on a sand-bank off Yarmouth, on the morning of Friday the 5th of May. Nearly two hundred persons perished in this melancholy disaster. The Duke himself, with difficulty, escaped by leaping from his cabin window into a little boat. Two or three others went after him. The Duke called to Sir George Gordon to follow their example, but, in leaping, he fell short of the boat into the sea. In the suspense and agony of the moment, the Duke exclaimed—"Save my Chancellor!" and thus gave the first intimation that this high dignity had been disposed of. He had himself the satisfaction of rescuing the Lord President—thus proclaimed, amid this scene of distraction, as Chancellor—from his position of imminent peril.¹

The survivors of this unhappy catastrophe reached Edinburgh on the Sunday night following; and the day after, being the 8th of May, the Duke of York laid before the Privy Council the King's letters patent, constituting and appointing Sir George Gordon of Haddo to be Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, in place of the late Duke of Rothes.² The Duke of York, from an early period of

¹ Pepys's Diary and Correspondence, by Lord Braybrooke, vol. v., pp. 86—90. (Ed. 1828.) Ellis's Letters Illustrative of English History, Second Series, vol. iv., pp. 67—73. Crawford's account of the matter is very characteristic:—"His Royal Highness, to testify the great esteem he had for the Lord Chancellor of Scotland *was graciously pleased to save him in the small barge with himself.*"—Lives of the Officers of State, p. 231. Patrick Gordon, the Chancellor's relative and secretary, was among those drowned.—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 68.

² Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 68.

his residence in Scotland, appears to have placed great reliance on Sir George Gordon : a confidence which had grown so much, that he now committed to him the highest office and the chief place in the administration of Scottish affairs.

It could scarcely be expected that this advancement of Lord Haddo should take place without exciting a certain amount of disappointment and rivalry, the more especially as it apparently took all parties by surprise. The high merit of the Chancellor, however, amidst all this, remained unquestioned. The chief ground of dissatisfaction, indeed, appears to have arisen from the fact of Sir George being a commoner, although a member of one of the most illustrious families in Scotland ; many maintaining that the office of Chancellor was a dignity which ought to be conferred only on a peer. Certain of the nobility seem even to have tacitly determined, among themselves, that the office would devolve necessarily on some one or other of them. It need not, then, surprise us, that, under these circumstances, we should meet with such characteristic grumbling as the following. Some, it is said, " began to compare my Lord Haddo's rising to be Chancellor to Oliver Sinclair's being advanced, as they apprehended, by King James 5th to be general of all his forces at Solway Sands in 1542 ; whereat the Lord Maxwell, and other nobility present, took such offence that they declined to fight, so that the English got a great victory, merely from the contempt the nobles conceived at the advance of a small gentleman above them."¹ These notes of envy, so carefully

¹ Fountainhall's *Historical Observes*, p. 69.

recorded in the Diary of the Whig lawyer, only tend to shew more clearly the force of that character and genius which enabled Lord Haddo to rise superior to such influences.

Lord Haddo's elevation to the Chancellorship was, however, speedily followed by his advancement to that very dignity, the want of which his contemporaries had made matter of objection. On the 30th of November, 1682, he was promoted to the Peerage, under the title of **EARL of ABERDEEN**. The patent which conferred upon him this rank, recites the eminent services he had rendered to the King by means of his splendid mental endowments; but if any part of this remarkable document could have been more grateful than another to Sir George Gordon, the manner in which his father's heroic struggles and sufferings are recorded must have been eminently so to him who "now sat in that very city and judgment-seat where his father suffered so sad and unjust a sentence."¹

To establish more completely Lord Aberdeen's influence in the county where his estates lay, and whence he derived his title, and also in that where his official residence necessarily was, he was appointed Sheriff principal of the Shires of Aberdeen and Midlothian respectively.²

¹ Edwards's *Doxologia*, quoted in Crawford's *Lives*, p. 232. The full title conferred by the patent is that of "Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount of Frumerten, [Formartine,] Lord Haddo, Methlick, Tarves, and Kellie." The patent, which has hitherto been very incorrectly printed, will be found in the Appendix (D. pp. 174-177) in a more perfect form.

² Appendix C., pp. 172, 173. Fountainhall's *Historical Observes*, p. 85. He was installed as Sheriff of Aberdeen, 7th November, 1682,—as Sheriff of Edinburgh, 20th December, 1682. The Earl of Errol retired from the office of Sheriff-Principal of Aberdeen-

It is not intended to enter upon a review of the state of public affairs during Lord Aberdeen's administration. Such an inquiry would lead us into a field far too broad and discursive for this place. It is enough for the present slight sketch to observe, that Lord Aberdeen was called to power at a time when little else than obloquy was to be expected from official dignity,—when even the wisest and ablest ruler could look forward to the exercise of but a loveless sway. The internal derangement had gone on increasing, till

. . . “every social band
That taught to rule with sweetness, and obey
With dignity” . . .

seemed, for a time, entirely set loose; and the brightest effort the prospect held forth to a statesman, must needs be the task merely of restraining, and in some degree moderating disorders grown almost too great for controul. This, however, was no light or gentle task; and it was one which, amid the existing and only possible conditions for attempting its fulfilment, involved difficulties and perils from almost every quarter. Such was the position occupied by Lord Aberdeen: and we eventually find that those difficulties, before long, became too strong for him.

During a period of two years and upwards, the administration of public affairs in Scotland was presided over

shire to make way for the new Chancellor, having received a pension of £100 sterling yearly, in lieu of his sheriffship. He, however, got himself reinstated in June, 1685, after Lord Aberdeen's administration ceased. Fountainhall's Hist. Notices, vol. i., p. 380; vol. ii., p. 648.

by him. And if no other distinguishing characteristic had marked his course, one, at least, must have been prominent in the eyes of his contemporaries—namely, his close and steady application to business,—a laboriousness in office, in remarkable contrast with previous experience. This is strongly evinced by the correspondence contained in this volume. The general result of the whole is a clear impression of the firm and steady hand with which he held the reins,—the watchful care and superintendence he exercised over every department of public affairs, small as well as great. And this impression corresponds exactly with the character of his administration in its leading features, which we derive from contemporary and even hostile sources.¹ This very resolute and firm exercise of power, indeed, combined with the miserably factious and envious spirit of the leading nobility already referred to,—and the intrigues of the party who pandered to the unhappy designs of the Duke of York against the established religion—led, in the end, to the Earl's retirement from office.

It is far from being meant to be implied that the acts of his official life are nowise open to animadversion ; but, perhaps, the highest and most convincing testimony to the general tenor of his firm and moderate policy is to be found in the circumstance which was the ostensible cause of his retirement. Whilst the Chancellor was engaged in prosecuting the most decisive measures against the insurgents in the west and south of Scotland,—who, how-

¹ See Fountainhall's *Historical Observes*, *Privy Council Records*, and *Burnet's History*.

ever the fact may be attempted to be disguised, maintained, avowed, and acted upon principles utterly incompatible with the existence of any government whatever,—a powerful party in the Privy Council originated, and passionately urged a scheme of excessive and unheard of rigour. The proposal was to make husbands and fathers answerable, by fine and imprisonment, for their wives and daughters; whose sympathies were, as ever happens, largely enlisted on the side of those they believed to be the weak and suffering. Lord Aberdeen gave a determined opposition to this measure, which it was proposed to enforce, not by any new law, but by stretching the import of certain existing provisions never intended to have such a scope. He firmly urged the illegality, the injustice, and the impolicy of a course which could be carried into effect only by an arbitrary exercise of power, and which must strike at the very existence of society itself.

The more moderate counsels of the Earl of Aberdeen, however, did not prevail. He therefore retired from his high post of trust and responsibility. And that the page of history might not contain a doubt as to the motives of his retirement, and the policy to which he refused to lend himself, the new ministers themselves inaugurated their administration by a public letter, under the King's hand, in which they put the following words into his Majesty's mouth:—"We do therefore recommend to your particular care, to prevent their malice by all legal and suitable means, prosecuting and disabling all such as you find obnoxious to our laws and government. And that you

might meet with no impediment from us, *we have removed from our councils and highest offices all such as we thought forward in favouring, and slow in proceeding against them*, or countenancers of disaffected and troublesome people, that you may see how inconsistent our favour is with such ways."¹

In addition, however, to these avowed differences between Lord Aberdeen and the party that supplanted him, there were other and more secret causes at work. It has been already mentioned that many of the nobility, at the time of his promotion to the Chancellorship, were deeply offended that this office should have been bestowed on one not of high rank in the Peerage. And this fancied grievance had continued to rankle in their breasts. They could not away with "the grudge they had to see a lawyer and a gentleman step into that office which [they] had intayled and monopolized for a long tyme among themselves."² Nor

¹ Wodrow's History, vol. iv., p. 30. Wodrow says, with reference to this passage, "If the Earl of Aberdeen, and others now displaced, be pointed at as favourers of, or, at least, slow proceeders against the sufferers, it is very much to their honour."—Ibid.

The following is the comment of an able foreigner, who has subjected this portion of our history to a keen scrutiny: "Pendant quelque temps cette tyrannie ne tomba que sur les hommes; mais au moyen du test, pour lequel les femmes témoignaient librement leur horreur, on entreprit de les enchaîner elles-mêmes. Les pères et les maris furent rendus responsables de leur soumission au test, et chargés de les obliger eux-mêmes, à peine d'amende ou de prison, d'aller aux églises anglicanes. Cette dernière mesure, proposée par Queensbury, fut combattue par le comte d'Aberdeen comme inexécutable. Une contestation s'éleva entre eux. Le duc d'York approuvant Queensbury, obtint du roi la révocation du comte d'Aberdeen, et fit nommer à sa place le lord Perth, catholique secret, qui sembla, dit un historien, avoir pris à tâche de montrer à l'Angleterre ce qu'elle avait à redoubter d'un roi papiste. Sous lui, les exécutions furent plus nombreuses." . . . Histoire de la Contre Révolution en Angleterre par Armand Carrel. (Bruxelles, 1836). pp. 200, 201. See also Burnet's History of His own Time, vol. ii., pp. 414, 415. [Ed. 1823]. Wodrow's History, vol. iv., pp. 3-5.

² Fountainhall's Historical Observes, pp. 128, 129. "The Treasurer had mo of the

had Lord Aberdeen made any effort to conciliate this paltry prejudice. Farther, it had apparently been expected by some of the leading peers, that the Chancellor would, on his promotion, forthwith cast himself into their arms, and become the partizan of their schemes. In

nobles to onne him, partly out of pick against a gentleman made Chancelor, and also because they are pensioners and forced to depend on him ere they can get payment from the Exchequer." Ibid, p. 122. Burnet's History, vol. ii., p. 44.

One of the charges against Lord Aberdeen was "his want of a mine or deportment for so honourable ane office." Fountainhall's Hist. Ob., p. 129. This probably refers to his personal appearance. Kirkpatrick Sharpe, in a note to his edition of Kirkton's History, says:—"He had the misfortune to be crooked in his person; which seems to have been a source of much mirth to 'that truly pious and eminently faithful, and now glorified martyr, Mr. John Dick,' who was hanged in the grass market of Edinburgh, 5th March, 1684. Dick, during his imprisonment, wrote a long pamphlet, which he calls his testimony, and had 'still a conceit in his misery.' He says—'I hope none will offend if, for my recreation, I break here a jest or two, in reference to which I hope the rather I have my blessed Master's permission, that therein I intend to do despite to and spitt in the faces of a few, such as have with most violence and hellish boldness, not only done despite unto the Spirit, but also monstrously spitten in the face of my blessed Lord and Master; the nature of my jests shall be, such as we call in Latin, *seria mixta joci*, and in broad Scots, half jest half earnest, &c. My second jest shall be this; I am apprehensive some may be of that opinion, that it shall befall me as it did that man who, for telling the truth, could not get quarters anywhere. This man, being wandering towards the evening, meets with another, (I will not say it was our Chancellor, but I think it was one like him,) who says to him—'How now, friend, what do you travelling so late?' The other answers—'I can get no lodging!' 'Go with me, friend,' says the other. So they came home, and are not well set down, when the poor traveller, being dry, calls to his landlord—'Glie'd carl, send me the cup by you!' upon which he takes his batten and chaces the poor man out o' the door under cloud of night, and, indeed, our Chancellor, to me, was yet more unchristian and madly wicked; what could move the man's spleen, I cannot guess: sure I am, whatever I thought, yet I called him not glie'd carl. It is like this has raised his passion, that I told him, he had sworn, in the test, that the act of supremacy, as explained, was horrid blasphemy. And was not this truth, as were all the principles and practices I there owned? and did I not offer, from the Word of God, to vindicate this? Why am I then, by armed force, halld out of that house to another? (in this he was worse than the other glie'd carl who let his guest go free, tho' he would not give him lodging). And there I must be arraigned before the justices, who to compliment the Chancellor, or may be the Duke of York, must let the world see that they are as glie'd in their morals as the other in his naturals."—Dick's Testimony to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government of the Church of Scotland, and the Covenanted Work of Reformation, &c. Kirkton's History, by C. K. Sharpe, pp. 301, 302.

this they found themselves mistaken. Instead of committing himself to any of the nobility who coveted the monopoly of government in Scotland, the course pursued by him was to conduct his administration so as to be master of his own counsels. This, too, became matter of offence : this "reservedness they took in very ill part."¹ And his independent bearing in the Privy Council² tended still farther to augment this distempered feeling. It had also become apparent that he would be no party to the secretly-cherished designs of the Duke of York.

Such was the combination of adverse influences in clandestine, if not avowed, operation ; and more than one attempt had been unsuccessfully made to overturn his government. But the efforts of his enemies had hitherto proved without success. Previously, however, to the final struggle, they called to their aid a new and more powerful ally. That which all their factious strivings had failed to accomplish, they now achieved by means of—a bribe—and the King's mistress.

The public aspect of the transaction which brought about Lord Aberdeen's retirement has been already related, such as it appeared to men's eyes at the time. Two years, however, had scarcely elapsed ere its hidden and baser proportions were exposed to view. Before they had been many months in power, a feud had broken forth between the Earl of Perth and the Duke of Queensberry, the chief actors in the coalition against the Earl of Aber-

¹ Fountainhall's Hist. Ob., p. 128. Burnet's History, vol. ii., p. 414.

² Fountainhall's Hist. Ob., p. 129.

deen ; and, by the summer of 1686, their jealousies and misunderstandings had grown to such a height, that an open rupture ensued. The Earl of Perth, then on the eve of declaring himself a Romanist, prevailed ; and the Duke of Queensberry having been deprived of his office of Lord High Treasurer, a commission was appointed to scrutinise his administration of the public monies, with the view of finding matter of charge against him. This commission proceeded sharply enough to work, as committees on disgraced ministers were wont ; but the only particular of its proceedings which concerns the present narrative is one of which the promoters of the enquiry would, most of all, have spared the publication. Sir John Lauder, in detailing the progress of the commission, says :—“ The Duke of Queensberrie’s article of £27,000 of incident charges and expenses on intelligence, being quarrelled by Duke Hamilton, and refused to be allowed, *it was found this was the money given by Perth and him to the Dutchesse of Portsmouth, to get out the Earle of Aberdeen from being Chancellor ;* and that he has Perth’s bond for the half of it, in case it should not be allowed.”¹

Money and a mistress had already driven from the King’s service in England a wise and great Chancellor ; and, without instituting any comparison between the two cases, it is beyond a doubt that the same ignoble agency forced into retirement in Scotland a Chancellor, the most independent, faithful, and indefatigable minister that had presided over Scottish affairs during a long and dreary period.

¹ Fountainhall’s Historical Notices, vol. ii., p. 745.

As it was, the value of the Earl of Aberdeen's services was so deeply felt, that his successful opponents, even at the extremity, would appear to have made overtures to him, "if," as Sir John Lauder says, "he would have condescended to act as Chancellor with the juncto." "But," Sir John proceeds, "he told the King, except he exercised [that office] as freely as his prædecessor, the Duke of Rothes, did, he could not serve him; and the King telling him he would be served in his own manner and conform to his own measures, he then voluntarily dimitted."¹

These transactions took place in London, during the month of May, 1684. On the 22nd of that month, the Earl of Aberdeen left for Edinburgh, where he arrived on the 2nd of June. After four days occupied in arranging his affairs, he dismantled his house in Edinburgh, and retired to his seat in Aberdeenshire. Meanwhile, the new ministers,—of whom the Earl of Perth, as Lord Chancellor,² and the Duke of Queensberry, as Lord Treasurer, were the recognised heads,—were busied in remodelling the ar-

¹ Fountainhall's Hist. Ob., pp. 130, 131. Lord Fountainhall's "Revolution principles" naturally biassed him against Lord Aberdeen; and he appears also to have had a sort of latent discontent with his splendid success. It is very amusing to mark, in the pages of his Diary, the struggle in this, as in many other instances, between his prejudices and his habitual accuracy, his relish of a gossiping scandal, and his general love of fairness in telling all the truth he knew.

His lordship waxes more sententious than usual in moralising over the Earl of Aberdeen's retirement. "This, among many former instances, may teach us how lubrick and staggering a thing the favor of Court is . . . But it is very just and fit there should be such an uncertain circulation; for, besides that it helps to wean our thoughts of their giddy, inebriating, sublunary contents, and draw up our hearts to a more noble reward, without this, virtue would starve, and its blossoming hopes and expectations would be nipped in the very bud." Historical Observes, p. 135.

² "To which office," Burnet says, "he had been long aspiring in a most indecent manner." History of His own Time, vol. ii., p. 416.

rangement of the different offices at their disposal. Having accomplished this to their mind, "they came of on coach in the begining of July, 1684, and arrived at Edinburgh the 10th of that moneth, wher they got a most magnificent reception by shooting of guns, and the forces drawen out, and the magistrats meeting them in their robs ; so that litle more could be given ather to the King or his brother, if they were coming hither."¹

The arrival of the new ministers was the signal for the commencement of a series of factious and oppressive attempts to crush and disgrace the eminent statesman whom they had supplanted. The first movement in this persecution, however, while it laid bare the bitter hostility of its promoters, was the means of exposing them to some ridicule. A rumour having reached them that a conventicle had recently been held within the county of Midlothian, of which Lord Aberdeen, was sheriff-principal, (but in which office the Earl of Perth now superseded him,) they in hot haste commenced a prosecution against him for not having suppressed it. Their keenness, however, in this instance, exceeded their discretion ; for, on enquiry, they found that a conventicle had indeed been held, not, however, in Lord Aberdeen's county, but a few yards within the march of that of their friend, the Earl of Tweeddale. Whereupon, it is said, the matter " was suffered to sleip."²

Foiled in this impotent display of feeling, they prosecuted with the keener purpose their other designs. Of

¹ Fountainhall's Hist. Ob., p. 132.

² Lord Fountainhall's Hist. Notices, vol. ii., p. 540 ; Hist. Ob., p. 135.

these one was a determination, if possible by any means, to obtain possession of Lord Aberdeen's papers, in the hope of being able thereby to fasten some accusation upon him. For this purpose, the council, from time to time, continued to require from him the delivery of all papers connected with his administration, till, in the end, they appointed the Earl of Kintore as their commissioner, "to call for the said Earl of Aberdeen, and examine him upon oath on what papers he had not hitherto delivered up, and to receive and transmit them to the clerks."¹ And we may judge of the avidity with which such enquiries were pressed, both directly and indirectly, from an incidental example recorded by Lord Fountainhall. "Sir John Dalrymple's whole papers are seized on," he mentions, "and inspected, and himselfe committed close prisoner to the tolbuith of Edinbrugh, and his two bretheren, James and Mr. Hew, are put under bayll to answer when called. *The Hy Tresurer was incensed that Sir John would give them no discoveries against the Earl of Aberdeen.*"²

The circumstances just referred to, it may, in passing, be remarked, will account to the reader of the papers which are subjoined for their seeming deficiency. All the more important documents connected with Lord Aberdeen's administration had been either seized on by his enemies, or it had become necessary for him to put them out of the way to escape their malice. Those which remain have, consequently, in some degree, to supply the place of those

¹ 10th Sept., 1684. Wodrow's History, vol. iv., p. 35.

² Fountainhall's Hist. Notices, vol. ii., p. 558.

now wanting, and are thereby impressed with a greater value.

To describe, in detail, the various prosecutions groundlessly stirred up against Lord Aberdeen,—the offspring, it is admitted by a candid opponent, of “interest, malice, and passion,”¹—would be but to weary this page. A few words, however, may be permitted as to one of these suits, in illustration of the spirit and feeling which animated the whole.² The case referred to is that at the instance of the Earl of Lauderdale, who had been, during Lord Aberdeen’s administration, convicted of speculation in the mint; and who now hoped, by the high hand of power, unscrupulously exercised, both to set aside this conviction, and to be revenged for the disgrace which thereby had been thrown upon him. He eventually failed in both his objects; but the manner in which the proceedings were conducted,—according to the testimony of Lord Fountainhall, an unexceptionable witness,—exhibits, in strong colours, the desperate resources of personal enmity and political malice. He informs us that in this prosecution there were more gross reflections tolerated than had ever been licenced in any cause before. And these, he states, “were meirly conjested and accumulat to blaiken and sully Aberdean’s reputation, and to justify the

¹ Fountainhall’s Hist. Notices, vol. ii., pp. 613, 614.

² The following examples will serve to indicate the petty malignity to which these attacks could descend. In a prosecution against the tacksman of the king’s customs, it is stated that “he was dealt more rigorously with, that he had married Forbes of Waterton’s daughter, the Chancellor’s niece.” An attempt was made to turn out a subordinate officer of the town of Edinburgh’s guard expressly because he had been appointed by the Lord Chancellor’s influence, &c.—Fountainhall’s Decisions, vol. i., pp. 296, 298.

great men's accusations by which they had gotten him laid aside, the *præfervidum Scotorum ingenium* not suffering any great man to fall softly." "Pique and designe," he continues, "was very evident in all this process; for my Lord Lauderdale and his sone Maitland ware allowed, in two elaborate discourses, to traduce him at the bar; and they called in Mr. William Fletcher, one of Aberdeen's advocats, and sharply rebuked and threatened him for using this expression in the debate:—'That my Lord Aberdeen could justify all the interlocutors he had procured when he sate on the bench, and that he nather was guilty of injustice nor malversations.' Which some thought might have passed weill enough in his lawyer's debate for him; but the great men looked upon it as a tacit reflection upon them; and therefor would needs have him retracting it, yea, proposed that he should doe it publicly."¹ He farther states that, notwithstanding the most valid and just reasons to the contrary, the judges in this case allowed a variety of extrinsic matters of allegation to be introduced, with the view of inflaming popular prejudice: "they," he says, "to beblaiken him, (for *calumniare audacter* &c.) allowed all to be examined."²

The result of these various attempts against the late Chancellor afforded but little consolation to his antagonists. They were baffled, notwithstanding all their unscrupulous

¹ This instance of the peril attending the exercise of 'freedom of speech' at the bar does not stand alone in the history of the Scottish Courts. Fletcher appears never to have recovered this debate. It is said, "This raised a pain in Mr. Fletcher's head, whereof he was never altogether free till he took that fever in June after, whereof he dyed."—*Hist. Notices*, vol. ii., p. 611.

² *Ibid.* vol. ii., pp. 608-614.

efforts to make "discoveries." In too many instances, the history of the period shows how vulnerable the character of most of the contemporary statesmen was, and, in general, how easy the task became, when the reverse of fortune happened, to crush a political leader out of power, by the recoil of his own acts. And the consciousness of his assailants seems to have led them to expect the same issue in the case of Lord Aberdeen. His acts and administration, however, were able, in every leading particular, to abide the ordeal of determined enemies and of unfriendly judges: a circumstance which, more than any other, gives a deep and serious import to the expression, sneeringly used by Burnet, that he had resolved "to keep to the law, and not to go beyond it."¹

It is unnecessary, however, to follow these transactions with further minuteness. The coalition which had been for a short time drawn into unity of action, for the purpose of overthrowing the power of a formidable rival, was soon divided by jealousies and heart-burnings among its own members. The death of the King took place in February, 1685; and further changes ensued, which had their issue in the crisis of 1688.

Notwithstanding his retirement from office, Lord Aberdeen continued to take an active part in the proceedings of the Parliament of Scotland during its sittings in 1685 and 1686.² But, after the landing of the Prince of Orange

¹ Burnet's History of his Own Time, vol. ii., p. 414.

² In the session of 1686, he bestowed particular pains on the Act which passed for the regulation of the Mint. Sir John Lauder says: "14th Junij 1686. At Parliament, the act anent the mint is past, with many amendments from the Earle of Aberdeen; who judged

he retired to the country, and avoided any share in the affairs of the Revolution.¹ Nor did he emerge from his retirement till after the accession of Queen Anne, when, for the first time, he took the oaths to Government.²

The only important transaction in which Lord Aberdeen took any prominent part after this was in the matter of the Treaty of Union between Scotland and England. (1705-1706.) We find him at an early period of his public life taking a lively interest in a measure which proposed this end ;³ and it is a remarkable coincidence, that his last appearance in public life should have relation to the same grand object. At the outset of his career in Parliament, he braved the indignation of Government, rather than that the legislature should be driven, without mature deliberation, into an ill-considered scheme ; and, now, at the close of his political existence, he, with equal resolution, incurred the censure of his ancient friends and allies, rather than join them in their factious exertions to defeat the Union. In addition to the fever of prejudice and excited feeling which had been roused throughout

himself concerned in honor to show the mal-administration of that office, to vindicate his decret, and whereon his donative of 8000 lb. sterling flowed."—*Historical Notices*, vol. ii., p. 732. *Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*, vol. viii., pp. 603-608.

¹ The Viscount of Dundee, in reviewing the state of the country previous to his last struggle for King James, mentions the Earl of Aberdeen as taking no active part. "Earl Errol stays at home ; so does Aberdeen." *Letters of John Grahame of Claverhouse, Viscount of Dundee*, p. 48. (Bannatyne Club), Edin., 1826.

² During the reign of William and Mary, he was more than once fined for not attending in his place in Parliament to take the oaths to the Government.—*Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*, vol. ix., pp. 103, 251. He was present in the first Parliament, holden 6th May, 1703, after the accession of Queen Anne, and took the oaths on 11th May, 1703.—*Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*, vol. xi., pp. 29, 37.

³ See above, p. x.

Scotland in regard to the proposed treaty, the Cavalier or Jacobite party had their opposition whetted by their bitter hatred of the existing Government, and their belief that the defeat of so important a measure would materially weaken its hands. But the Earl of Aberdeen, who seems to have arrived at maturer and more enlarged views on this question than many of his contemporaries,¹ disregarding these merely party and short-sighted considerations, abstained from opposing a measure which his countrymen at the time regarded and denounced as a "fatal thralldom."²

¹ General Mackay, King William's Commander-in-Chief in Scotland, writing about this time, says of the Earl of Aberdeen—"He is very knowing in the laws and constitution of his country, and is believed to be the solidest statesman in Scotland:—a fine orator, speaks slow but strong." *Memoirs of the War*, 1689—1691.

² The Lockhart Papers, vol. i., p. 130. Crawford, who wrote at the time when the Union was still in most bitter odium, is anxious to represent Lord Aberdeen as being averse to it; (*Lives of the Lord Chancellors*, p. 233;) but Lockhart, who had the best means, both personal and political, of ascertaining and knowing the Earl's opinion and conduct in the matter, places it beyond doubt that Lord Aberdeen refused to act along with the cavalier party in obstructing the Union. He joined the Duke of Athol and others in protesting (1st September, 1705) against the Treaty being completed until the Act of the English Parliament, declaring Scotsmen aliens should be first repealed. (*Acts of Parliament of Scotland*, vol. xi., pp. 236, 237.) This, however, was but a preliminary question, affecting the honour and status of one of the contracting parties. Lockhart's statement is:—"And here I must observe and lament the woful fate of this nation: for though it was well known that the House was to be that day upon this grand affair, and the Court had mustered together every individual of their party; yet seven or eight of the cavaliers and country parties were absent, and thereby lost this clause, which, had it passed, would have proved a mortal stroke to the court, they being resolved to have laid aside the Treaty of Union and prorogued the Parliament; by which means the nation had been free of that fatal thralldom to which 'tis since subjected. Nor must I omit that the Earl of Aberdeen turned tail to the cavaliers in this important affair: 'Tis not easy for me to determine the cause; but 'tis matter of fact that his Lordship did not behave, on many occasions during this session, as might have been expected from one of his principles and circumstances, and (though this is not the proper place,) could not be persuaded to be present at, and assisting against the Union in the next Sessions; nay, *the cavaliers at last being informed of his inclinations towards it* were glad to compound with him to stay away," p. 130. Lockhart's

The remaining years of the Earl of Aberdeen's life were spent amid the tranquillity and seclusion of a country life,—in the improvement and extension of his family property.¹ The boy, who had beheld his father's home invested by fierce and warlike men,—who had been driven, a terrified child, across its threshold preparatory to the work of destruction,—now an old man, reposed, after an eventful life, in peace and quiet, upon the scene of those wild transactions. He died at Kellie on the 20th of April, 1720, in the eighty-third year of his age.

The foregoing narrative, along with the notes which have been appended to the subjoined documents, appear to be all that is necessary by way of introduction or explanation. The originals of the Letters form part of the collections at Haddo House ; and the Club has to acknowledge

party dealt with the question of the Union solely as one bearing on their designs for restoring the exiled Royal Family.

The Earl of Aberdeen's absence from the House was excused by the Lord Commissioner on 3rd December, 1706, "in respect of his indisposition ;" and he does not appear to have been ever again present in Parliament.—Acts of Parliament of Scotland, vol. xi., p. 345.

¹ The Earl of Aberdeen, while Sir George Gordon, married "Anne, eldest daughter of George Lockhart of Torbrecks, heiress of her brother, William, who died 1672 ; her mother, Anne, was daughter of Sir James Lockhart of Lee, sister of Sir William Lockhart, ambassador to France, and of Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath, President of the Court of Session. They had six children :—(1) George, Lord Haddo, died unmarried in the lifetime of his father. (2) William, second Earl of Aberdeen. (3) Lady Anne, the second wife of Alexander, ninth Earl of Eglinton. (4) Lady Martha, born 13th February, 1681, married to John Udny of Udny, in the County of Aberdeen. (5) Lady Mary, born 29th March, 1682, married to Alexander, twelfth Lord Saltoun. (6) Lady Margaret, died unmarried."—Douglas's Peerage of Scotland, vol. i., p. 21.

the courtesy of its noble President in granting access to them, and also in acceding to the application of the Council for leave to print them for the use of the Members.

It has been already explained why, in some respects, they will at first sight appear more meagre than might have been anticipated. Some attempts were made to supply what is evidently wanting, from other quarters; but without success: so great had been the precaution used to prevent any papers of the Chancellor's falling into doubtful hands,—or the zeal of those employed to lay hold of documents whereby it was hoped to make discoveries to his injury.

The original orthography of the Letters has been preserved. In most of them the writing goes on continuously without any break; but, in printing, it has been thought better to make an arrangement of paragraphs.

The Club is indebted for this volume to the liberality of Sir ROBERT ABERCROMBY of Forglen and Birkenbog, Baronet, at whose cost it has been presented to the Members.

JOHN DUNN.

ABERDEEN, *September*, 1851.

LETTERS
ILLUSTRATIVE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN SCOTLAND,
ADDRESSED
BY CONTEMPORARY STATESMEN
TO
GEORGE EARL OF ABERDEEN,
LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND.

M DC LXXXI—M DC LXXXIV.

LETTERS
FROM
CONTEMPORARY STATESMEN
TO
GEORGE, EARL OF ABERDEEN,
LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND.

SIR George Gordon of Haddo, as already mentioned in the Introduction, took his place as Lord President of the Court of Session, on the 1st of November, 1681. His predecessor, Sir James Dalrymple of Stair, had given great offence to the Scottish administration under the Duke of York, by the opposition he had offered to the Government in the Parliament held that year;—particularly by his conduct in regard to the Oath, known by the name of the Test, then ordered to be imposed on all persons holding offices of public trust. For in this matter, although he was unable to defeat the measure, he carried a material alteration on its essential features; which at the time caused the utmost annoyance to the Government, and was afterwards productive of considerable embarrassment.

Immediately after the rising of the Parliament on 17th of September, the President, knowing how hopelessly he had offended the ruling powers in Scotland, repaired to London with the view of explaining his conduct to the King in person. To this state of matters the first Note in this collection refers. His Majesty, however, refused to admit Sir James to an audience. And on the 14th of October a new Commission was issued for the Court of Session, superseding Lord Stair in his office of President, and nominating Sir George Gordon as his successor.

I.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE of Tarbet, afterwards Lord Clerk Register of Scotland.

My Lord,—The President is gone up, and sent his excuse to the

D[uke] by Sir John his sonne, *ex post facto*. The D. takes this cariage ill; and hath writt up relating to it.¹ Much of all that was talkt amongst us is abroad.

The King hath caried the Major of London by above 300 votes, which wee hope will make a great change ther to the better.

The King of France in on week hath caried both Strasburgh, and Casall in Italy: two most considerable posts.²

I will be heer till Thursday's councell pass. Adiew.³

3 Oct., 1681.

II.—From WILLIAM, EARL of QUEENSBERRY,⁴ Lord Justice General, and an Extraordinary Lord of Session.

Sanqr., 2d Jar, 1682.

My dear Lord,—I had given yow this trouble sooner, but that nothing occures heir worth, it all being peaceable save only that

¹ "Though my Lord Lautherdale seem'd much astonished at the exceptions his Royal Highness [the Duke of York] made in the new regulations against the Lord Register, the Earl of Argile, and President of the Sessions, and used many arguments to convince his Majesty they were well disposed to his service, he reply'd, He was informed from his Brother of their behaviour and principles, on which he intirely rely'd, and would not permit the last, who was then in Towne, so much as to appear in his presence, because he had come away without the Duke's permission."—Life of James the Second, King of England, vol. i., p. 707.

² "At this tyme, Christendome was exceedingly allarumed with the French King's sudden surprizall of 2 such important places of strength as Casale and Strasbourg, the first being the key opening the door to all Lombardy and Italy, and the last being the most flourishing republick and considerable passe upon the river of Rhine, and ane inlet to the Empire; and which grieved those of the reformed religion most was, that in Strasbourg, wher the Lutherans did not permit the publick exercise of the Popish religion, he had brought back the Popish Bischop, and given the Catholicks the Cathedral church for saying Masse in."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 49.

³ Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet was named Lord Clerk Register by the Commission already mentioned, of 14th October, 1681.

⁴ Created Marquis of Queensberry, 11th February, 1682; Duke of Queensberry, 3rd February, 1684. He became Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, 12th May, 1682.

in the heads of Galloway some of the Rebells meet; but their number is not considerable, not exceeding 12 or 16, and their bussiness is only to drinke and quarrell: so neither Church nor Steate (in my judgement) need feare them. However, I'm still of opinion the sooner Garisones be pleaced, and a competent pairtie sent with Cleveres for scoureing that pairt of the countrey the better. Besydes, I'm tolde feild conventicles continow in Annandaile and Galloway, but all will certainly evanish upon Cleveres' aryvall, as I have often tolde.

Few Ministers of this Presbitrie¹ have taken the Teste, occasioned as is said by the Bisshopes' mistake, who impoured the Moderator to give it to the rest, and he declyneing to take it with them (being a mungrell betuixt Presbitrie and Episcopacie) they refused. Upon this subject I shall be glead to speake with the Bisshope before any thing be downe: so if he be in toune, and that your Lop. have occasione to sie him, I begg ye cause him delay any thing relaiting to these affaires till nixt week that I be their.

My dear Lord, ever since pairteing I have been unweell and under phisicke: so it will not be in my poure to attende his Royall Highnesse sooner then close of the nixt weeke, till which tyme I hope ther will be no use of me, and I begge yee'l procure my excuse. I should be glead to know what is become of the peaper I troubled your Lop. with at pairting, and doe begg your pardon for the unseasonable visite I then gave yow, which I more confidently expect that I hope your Lop. hes the justice to consider me most firmly and perfectly,

My Dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most reall and humble Servant,

QUEENSBERRY.

For My Lord President of the Sessione.

¹ Presbytery of Penpont in the Diocese of Glasgow.

² Arthur Ross, Archbishop of Glasgow; afterwards, in 1684, Archbishop of St. Andrew's. He held the Primacy of Scotland at the Revolution in 1689.

The Laird of Craufourtowne being a freind and vassell of myne, and most unjustly brought in trouble by Cunninghame of Sneade and Mr John Crichtone, I presume concernedly to recomende him to your Lordship's favour and justice : In which he and Hew Wallace will give full information.¹

What commands your Lop. hes for me Hew Wallace will still gett conveyed; and if ye judge fitte I be with yow sooner then close of the nixt weeke, upon advertisement I shall leave all things and heaste their. Mean while if your great affaires will allow yow to let me know bussienesse their, yee'l obleidge me extreamly.

I wish your Lop. a good new yeer.

III.—From JAMES EARL OF PERTH.²

Newmarket, 14 March, 82.

My Lord,—This evening E. Argyll's affaire was talkt of before his Majestie and put to an end. Lord Lorn managed his own business, and was very perfect in it. The Signature is to be as it was sent up : the L:L: of Sessions Commissioners; and the children are well provided for. He is not to have Inverrayray, but 15000 lib. Scots free of all encumbrance; and the younger children 700 lib. starling a year, divided thus: the eldest son nixt

¹ "January 25, 1682. In Brown *alias* Crichton of Crawfordston, his improbation of a bond of relief against Captain Laverock and Mr. John Crichton; the Lords finding that Andrew Cunningham the criminal Macer, Laverock's cedent, did prevaricate and vary in his declaration when they tried him in their own presence, they sent him to prison till he was further examined, and where some few weeks after he died; and the Lords appointed some points to be further cleared by probation of witnesses.

"February 1, 1683. Crichton of Crawfordstone, his improbation against Laverock, Crichton, and Cunningham, mentioned the 25th January, 1682, was advised. 'The Lords, on the depositions of the witnesses, and other probation, find the said bond of cautionary not probative, and therefore improve it allenarly *quoad omnes civiles effectus*.'"—Fountainhall's Decisions of the Lords of Council and Session, vol. i. pp. 170, 215.

² A Privy Councillor of Scotland, 1678; made Lord Justice General of Scotland, 1st May, 1682; Lord High Chancellor, 23rd June, 1684.

Lorn 200; the two nixt 150 a peece; and the 2 daughters 100 each. They are not to be restor'd in blood before the Signature is past. And the King is sensible he has not been well informed when he raised Argyl so high last time he was in this condition.¹ Wee have no other neus at present. You may communicate of this what you please to all our friends, for I must write sometimes to one sometimes to another. Belive me, with all my heart to be,

My dear Lord,

Your Lops. most humble faithfull

Servt. and Kinsman,

PERTH.

For My Lord President of the Session.

Present my service to my Lady Erroll,² and show hir this paper.

¹ "The chief matter yet in debate in reference to the Lord Argyle, was the Signature or disposition of his estate, for payment of his just Creditors, and some moderate donatives to such as his Father had ruined for their fidelitie to his Majesty; the surplusage being intended to descend to his family; this the Duke sent up for the King to confirme, but great objections were made against it by My Lord Halifax, as well as others: My Lord Lorn likewise desired leave to come and plead for himself. . . . This hindered not My Lord Lorn and his friends from pressing hard to have the Superiorities restored him, pretending they were but a sort of chief rents, or an authoritie over his Tenants, but My Lord Middleton shew'd the King the difference betwixt Common Tenants and Vassels, who are obliged to follow their Lord on all occasions, which was a power the King thought not fit to trust in such hands, so that he positively refused it, tho' he agreed to restore My Lord Lorn in blood; which the Duke approued of also, but advised his Majesty, for fear of some trick, not to sign the restitution in blood before the Signature, which he thought a prudent caution, and did accordingly."—Life of King James the Second, vol i. pp. 712, 713.—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i. p. 350.

² The Lady Anne Drummond, wife of John Earl of Errol. She was the only sister of the Earl of Perth, who appears to have been most tenderly attached to her. The Camden Society have published (1845) a volume of interesting letters, written by the Earl from the continent subsequently to the Revolution, and which are, for the most part, addressed to his noble sister.

IV.—From ALEXANDER EARL of MORAY, an Extraordinary Lord of Session, and Secretary of State for Scotland.

Newmarket, March 17, 1682.

My Lord,—Some tym agoe, I wrot to you of a couserne of myne, and did then recommend to Sir William Purvis¹ your information of the wholl matter, which it seems hes yit takin no effecte. The matter is : About a year and a half agoe, His Majesty was graciously pleased to giue me the Ward and Maerridge² of one Paetrik Parke, late mertchand of Edin³. The Gift I took in Mr. Andrew Forrester's name, becaus I was to countersinge it myselfe. I fynd the probatione is led and closed, and the prociesse brought the lenthe of

¹ The King's Solicitor.

² WARD was that casualty whereby the ward-fee, in which the vassal died infest, was in the superior's hands during the minority of the heir in the case of males, and till the heir was fourteen years complete in the case of females. The effect of this casualty was, that the superior or his donatary might enter to the full possession of the lands, and, during that time, enjoy the full fruits and profits of the fee, subject to the burden of maintaining the heir if he had no other estate to subsist on.

The casualty of MARRIAGE, as appears from the name, imported the tocher or portion the vassal actually received, or might have received, with his wife in case he married suitably ; but, for the more easy determination of the case, the untaxed avail of the marriage was at the modification of the Court of Session, who by the later practice valued it at two years' rent of the vassal's free estate, personal and real, after deduction of his debts. This was termed the single value or avail of the marriage ; which was always due if the heir was not married before his predecessor's death, and arrived at the years of discrecion. The double avail or value was modified to three years' free rent. It was due when the heir was required by the superior to marry a particular woman and married another. The person offered to the heir must have been "without disparagement," that is, a person being an equal and suitable match with respect to age, state, or degree. But the double avail was never due unless the heir was not only required to marry a suitable person, but likewise married another. The preliminary steps requisite towards enforcing the double avail of marriage were of so peculiar and stringent a nature, that no woman of character could be expected to become a party to them. It is therefore scarcely matter of wonder that no instance occurred, since the institution of the College of Justice, in which the double avail was adjudged against an heir.—Lord Stair's Institutions of the Law of Scotland, Book ii. tit. iv. 33-60. Bankton's Institute, Book ii. tit. iv. §§ 5, 6.

The casualties of Ward and Marriage were abolished by the Statute of 20 Geo. ii. c. 50.

advysinge. His Royall Highnes will, by this or next post, recommend the dispatch of it to you, that it may be closed this session; and I am so confident of your justice, that I shall only further ad that I am, in mutch sincerety,

My Lord, your most humble Servant,

MORRAY.

V.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON, Clerk to the Privy Council in Scotland.¹

Neu Market, 15th March.

My dear Lord,—You hawe heard of the cheirfull and welcome reception his R. H. meits vith heir by all persons, his frinds all rejoycing, and his enimies not daring to sheu ther heads. Manie begin to think the D's.² stay may be longer than he designed, bot of this ther can be no certain measures taken yit. God make all honest men thankfull for this change.

Last night the King calld such of the Scotish councill who are in toune; wher I had the honour to vait. And the K. has commanded me to put in 200 lib. ster. a yeir to the late Argill's second son; and 150 to each of the two youngest; and 100 lib. yearlie to each of the tuo daughters; and with this alteratione the Signatur is to pass, and will be sent nixt post.³

The D. gaue his Majesty ane excellent accompt of the stait of Scotland; and gave just characters of honest men and als just of rogues. Midleton is in favour, yit I beleiwe Murray will get no wrong. He remembers your Lordship verie kyndlie and vith great esteem. By the nixt your Lordship shall haue more trouble from,

Your most faithfull servant.

For the Right Honorable

The Lord President of the Session.

¹ He was the Brother of the Bishop of Edinburgh.

² The Duke of York: who at this time had been recalled from Scotland to Court, for a temporary purpose.

³ See pp. 6, 7, above.

VI.—FROM JAMES EARL OF PERTH.

Newmarket, 23 March, 82.

My Dear Lord,—I am informed that some people with you in Edinburgh are grown very high; and must have all their wills, or els they wil throw up ther cards, and take another course. If your Lordship think me worthy of your putting trust in me, pray let me know what you can learn of this. Nixt, the Advocate is in some doubt that Sir Geo. Lockhart may do him hurt: you know what use to make of this. Your Lordship sees I write freely to you, and I assure you no service can be done by me to you, that shal be omitted.

Wee long for M. Queensberry; but I imagine the Duke wil not be too sudden in the Scottish affaires, least that should be used as a divice to send him away, as having done his business. Those who most opposed his coming now seem best pleased with it. Thus prosperity you see draws peoples' dependence: but where that is the only hold, it is but an accidentall friendship, and subject to be undone by any storm.

My Lord, I beseech you allow me some of your spare minutes, and if you wold give me measures, it were done lyke a friend. For my part I do assure you no body wold, with more joy, submitt to your directions than I wold. Pray do me the kindness to present my humble service to my Lady Erroll: I long for hir Ladyships commands: I am sure I should be proud of an occasion to serve her.

Now I must suggest one thing to you, and 'tis this: evrie litle extravagance of a company of old wives is magnified here to a rebellion by some ill men. They may chance to possess the K. with a conceit of the necessity of the Duke's presence, to quiet Scotland, and so drive him once more away. For God's sake let all be keep't

in as quiet a condition as may be; and give timous accounts of all things of that nature.

Nixt, wee are deafen'd by some people with storys of contradictions in your Councells. I know who are stiff; but pray by all means represent yourselves as unite and submissive to the King's plesure. Forgive this from

Your faithfull Servant and Cousen,

PERTH.

For my Lord President of the Session.

VII.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Neu Market, 25th March.

My dear Lord,—I returnd yesternight from London: whither I went by the Duk's command to wait on my Lord of Canterburrie, to deliver to him a Leter from the Bishops of Scotland. His Grace was extreamlie pleasd with it; and bid me tell his R. H. that my Lords of the clergie of Scotland had writen nothing to him but what he expected from the goodness of so vyse and just a prince; and told he should not faill to make that good and great use of it for quhich it ves designed; and that he vould give his Majesty and his R. H. the humble and hearty thanks and prayers of the church for ther princleie care of the poor Church of Scotland.¹

Your Lordship would be extremlie pleasd to see the sudden and strange change of this people, and particularly even the citie of London, to the K's. and D's. interest. This day the K. receawed four Addresses full of deutie and loyaltie; and not a day passes without some: all of them against Shaft. associatione, and manie of them giving his Majesty thanks for bringing

¹ " *March 9th.*—Our Bishops wrote a Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, full of encomiums of the Duke. . . . I find Bishop Paterson went up with the Duke, and probably he carried this Letter."—Wodrow's History, vol. iii. pp. 364, 365 (ed. 1830.)

hom the Duke: so that most people beleive the D. will stay. By the end of the nixt veik I can be able to give your Lordship ane accompt of vhat is nou resolving heir annent that. Halifax, Hyd, and the rest of the great men, are all heir consulting that affair.

Nothing of Scottish busines yit done. Manie beleive Perth will be Chancellour, but nothing yit certain. They say Queensberrie declynes it. I do not find Tuedale meits vith anie thing more than ordinarie civilitie. I vish with all my soull your Lordship wer heir. My Lord Murray remembers your Lordship vith great kyndnes and esteem. I know your Lordship will haue accompt from beter hands, but from non who loves and honours you mor, or will serve you with mor faithfullness than,

My Dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull Servant,

W. P.

VIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

I heare yow have done me good offices: these I assure yow it is what I would have indeavourd for yow, and ever resolv'd to doe since wee were acquaint; nor could I alter but by perswasion that yow had cast me of, and taken new courses and new freends; nether of which will ever fitt our Master's service, or your owne true interest so weill as what you had, and I perswade myself will ever retaine: and be sure so shall I.

On the 13, the Councill ordord the Garrisons of Mull, etc., to be delivered to certaine persones in his Majestie's name. On Thursday last, the 20, a litle before Councill rose, I was called downe to the Session house on some bills; the Ma. of At.¹ was absent;

¹ Marquis of Athole.

and so some brought in a petition in name of the late E. of Argyle's tacksman, desyreing surty to be found to him by those who should receive the house of Dowart; which past; and I never heard of it till two dayes agoe: a thing so hetrochle that I know not what to say. And they imposed on the Advo., assuring him that the house was delivered to M'Lean's privat use, most falsly. Wee heare they would not have rendered it however; but now they will cover their deed with this Order. On Thursday, the 27. wee shall have it reconsidered, and I hope that pretence taken of.

E. Errol¹ is very angry that his debt was not exprest in the Signature. And now the clamor of all Argyle's creditors is turnd on Macdougall's 100 lb. sterl.; for M'Lean hath but what he had formerly;² wheras the great provisiones to others is more in there way, or creditors want: I wish Macdougall wanted his. Adieu.

25th April, 1682.

After writting of this, I receaved yours. By what was writt up to Qs.³ concerning my cariage in his brother's effaire, I see people will be either malitious or officious. I am sure I did in that what I would have done had Coll. Dowglas⁴ been my owne brother, I doe not grudge that other men's ignorance be taken by themselves for zeall.

I am very glad of your mirth at the citie's treat.

¹ See Fountainhall's Historical Notices, p. 312.

² Ibid. pp. 108, 205, 350. Miscellany of Spalding Club, vol. iii. p. 220.

³ Marquis of Queensberry.

⁴ The Hon. James Douglas, brother of the Marquis of Queensberry. He first studied for the bar; but, having relinquished the profession of advocate, he entered the army, and in 1684 was appointed colonel of the King's foot guards in Scotland.—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. ii. p. 542.

IX.—From SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

29 Apr. 1682.

On Thursday the error committed at the Counsell formerly, ordaining those who receavd the garrisons in his Majestie's name to find surty, was redrest; and ane express Ordor sent for delivering of them: and so the tacksmen are left to the ordiner course of law.

Ther hath been a scuffle betwixt some of the Horse Guards and the heritor of Dalrey near the towne. The country gentlemen make a great noise on it: it is not yet examined in Councell, but I feare the souldiers will be found in the wrong. As those countrymenn who mutinously oppose and molest the souldiery should be censured, so should also these souldiers who give just ground of complaint to the country: for it is of importance to have the souldiers acceptable to the country.¹

¹ [27 April, 1682.] "Eodem die, and the following counsell dayes, John Chiesley of Dalrey complains on Daveis, Clark, &c., who rode in the King's life-guard, that they had, by way of hamesucken, invaded him in his owne house, and wounded and beat him and his servants, and had tane possession of his stables, and thrust out his owne horses, &c. They had also a recrimination against him, viz., that they being come to fetch his proportion of straw for ther horses, conforme to the late Act of Parliament and Counsell, he, with sundry of his servants and tennants, fell upon them with forks, grapes, &c., and had broken ther swords, and wounded some of them. It is referred to the Criminall Court."

"6 Julij, 1682. John Cheisley *contra* Daveis and Clark. The King's advocat at the Criminal Court so far prævaricated, that he declared he passed from hamesucken, and insisted only for the invasion and oppression, contrare to the pershuar's inclination, and his owne advice formerly. They founded on a warrand they had from Murray, the lieutenant of the King's troupe, to come and force corne and straw, but *mandatum rei illicitæ non valet*. The assise found them guilty. The ane is banished the kingdoms, never to return under pain of death; and Clerk is degraded from the King's troupe, and ordained to find caution for his good behaviour in tyme coming. This is not enough to repress the souldiers' insolence; the punishment of hamesucken (which they ware certainly guilty of) is death. (See Sir G. Mackenzie's Criminalls, p. 112.)"—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i., pp. 353, 363.

This Chiesley afterwards acquired an infamous notoriety, by the murder of Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath, Lord President of the Court of Session, in open day, on the streets of Edinburgh, on Sunday, 31st March, 1689.

I wonder we have had no direction as to Argyl's effaire. The letter is not yett booked, nor the Signature past the Seals: but before the next meeting of the Comissioners both must be, unless his Majestie's pleasure to the contrar be made knowne to us.

The ryott comitted be severals of the Camerons on the party will be fully proven. I have examined some witneses on it, but wee are not over hasty, wishing our determinationes anent this to be directit by what will be thought fitt.¹ Adieu.

For my Lord President of the Session.

X — FROM JOHN, BISHOP OF EDINBURGH.²

Edr., May 10, 1682.

My Good Lord,—The Magistrats haue seized the woman that threw the first stone in the tumult. They haue spyes abroad to find out the guiltie and ringeleaders; they will give lists of them whom they haue reason to suspect and are fugitive; they will examine the prisoners who haue been endited and give them fair hopes of pardon, and assurance of reward, if they will detect their complices; they will take the oaths of the masters of the prentices of the massons and wrights who were seen to throw stones at the

¹ "14 *Novembris*, 1682. Complaints being exhibited against Camron of Lochyell and some of his clan for sorning and robbing, and for deforcing and doing violence and affronts to a part of the King's forces, who came ther to lift the cesse and taxation; the Lords ordained them to be presently disarmed of their swords, pistols, and skein-durks, and to be securely imprisoned."

"30 *Novembris*, 1682. At Privy Counsell the laird of Lochyell is fyned, as the head of that clan, in 100 lb. sterling, for the deforcement and violence offered by his men to the King's forces when they came there to exact the taxations . . . This was done (as was thought) to cause him give way to Huntlye's getting a footing in Lochaber."—Fountainhall's *Historical Notices*, vol. i., pp. 378, 384.

² John Paterson:—was first minister of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, afterwards of the Tron Church, Edinburgh; bishop of Galloway, 23rd October, 1674; translated to Edinburgh, 29th March, 1679; Archbishop of Glasgow, 21st January, 1687. He was deprived at the Revolution, and died 8th December, 1708.

sojors if anie of them be fled ; and accordinglie they will seize whom they can catch over this night, and give up lists of fugitives. This I haue advised, and this they haue promisd : if so, it will shew ane good account of their diligence.¹

Humblic adieu.

¹ "On the 3rd of May, 1682, (the same day wheiron in the year 1679 the late Archbishop of St. Andrew's was murdered) happened a tumult in Edenbrugh, which lasted 2 days. The occasion of it was, on Johnston, son to the tounie major of Edenbrugh, who was ane lieutenant or ensigne in the Dutch service, and some other officers having seized upon some trades apprentices, and prevailed with them to consent to goe away as souldiers to the Prince of Orange, and particularly attempting to carry away some who had committed a ryot on the constable of the bounds, and ware theirfor imprisoned, ther commorads fell upon Major Johnston, and beat him, and extorted a promise from him that he should set thesse youths at liberty. But he, instead of performing theirroff, the next day got some of the King's forces out of Lithgow and Mar's regiments to accompany and conduct these prisoners safely to the ships lying ready in the road of Leith to transport them. Whille they are going doune the streets, some weemen and tradesmen cryed to them, "Pressed or not pressed," and they answered that they were pressed, wheirupon they began to throw stones and other such materialls at the souldiers ; and when they came towards the Nether Boll, the rabble and commonalty gave them a shreud attaque, and by what was thrown at them furth of windows, and from the houses that they ware their building, the King's forces ware exceedingly assaulted and abused ; wheirupon Major Keith gave them command and orders to shoot amongs the multitude, which they did, and their ware about 10 or 12 innocent people (none of them who occasioned the uproar, but bystanders) some men and others weemen killed by this shoot, wheirupon they disappeared. Yet hearing ther ware some privy counsellors met in Sir George Kinnaird's chamber, they insolently came and threw in stones at the glasse windows, which was worse than the offering to rescue their neihbours. Therafter 3 of them was apprehended, whom his Majesty's advocat resolved to get hanged for examples as ringleaders ; and on the 6th May pannelled them in a criminal court for presence and accession ; but the assise would not find them guilty. The magistrates ware much blamed for ther cowardlinesse and slouth in not suppressing this tumult, and the allowing the King's forces to enter the tounie, (as if they could not manage ther oune affairs and compease uproars within themselves) contrare to ther priviledges, and so giving occasion to shed more blood then has been at once thesse 60 years done in the streets of Edinburgh. The Privy Counsell ordained an indytement to be raised against them, concluding that they ought to be deprived for ther maleversation and negligence. It was proposed that the Provost or Dean of Gild, as head of the merchands, should find caution for ther keeping the peace, under the pain of 50,000 merks, and that the Deacon Conveneer should doe the like for the trades. The citizens in this affair, especially the crafts, ware exceedingly dissatisfyed with ther magistrates' carriage."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, pp. 66, 67. See also Fountainhall's Decisions, vol. i., p. 184.

XI.—From PATRICK, EARL of STRATHMORE and KINGHORN.

May it please your Lordship,—I give your Lordship the trouble of this, just as in everything else I have to doe I presume to expect your friendship; as your Lordship shall ever find me forward and readye, in the straight way, to serve the King without faction or reserve; and I will lay myself alwayes opne to thos meassurs you shall condescend to give me.

His Majesty now being determened in the choice of a Treasurer, wherein I acquiesce as cheerfully as any man: I have the honour to be of old acquaintance with the Marques of Queensberry:¹ but I am not able to solicit my own concern so well as I have a heart to do my friends', and therfor I choise to imploy another in my own. I know none has more interest with his Lordship than your self.

'Tis about my pension which I have under the privy seale, without any relation to the office I served the King lately in.² I have his Royall Hyenes promise for it, unsought; but now, being at a distance, I may be forgot, if the King's ministers upon the place doe not favour me with ther representation.

I suppose ther ether is, or ther will be, a new liste of Pensions which are continued, to pass the King's hand; which it's lyke my Lord Treasurer will consert with your Lordship. I invye no man: so much I say befor my God: but the M. of Athol upon this has got his pension hightened. I pretend to no more than what I have; but I beg leave to say, if myne be ether takne totally away, or reduced to three hundreth, I shall not only miss it as to my own

¹ Queensberry was appointed sole Treasurer of Scotland 12th May, 1682. "At Exchequer, there being a new Tresurer Principall established, he, like a new byssom, fell on sundry methods to inrich the Tresurie. 1^o His Majesty makes a new list of his pensions in Scotland, when sundry are left out who had pensions formerly," &c.—Fountainhall's Hist. Notices, vol i., p. 359.

² He had been one of the Commissioners of the Treasury in Scotland, until superseded by the Marquis of Queensberry's appointment as sole Treasurer. He was admitted a Privy Counsellor 10th January, 1682.

living, but the imputation will be great and greivous upon me, as not only layed asyde, but altogether unworthy of any mark of the King's favour. I am extreemly concerned: therfor I humbly intreat your Lordship to interpose yourself in behalf of,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and faithfull servant,

STRATHMORE.

Glammis, 2nd June, 1682.

For my Lord Chancellour of Scotland.

XII.—FROM GEORGE, MARQUIS OF HUNTLY.

My Lord,—I receaved the honour of your Lordshipp's letter, off the 10th Junn, bee Mr. Dombarr; who informs mee off your Lordship's favor and kindness to mee and fammely, especially in this affair off my Lord Dumfermmling's pretentions to my sister Jean.¹ Sinc your Lordship has been plesed to notiss that, I most intrett yow would continow your favor off owning my sister and mee in itt, and that yow would permitt Dumfermmling's frinds and myn to tack befor your Lordship off the particulars nessesair in this bussiness. I know itt would bee tooe troublesum for your Lordship to trett particularly off such affairs, so yow may nominat whom yow shall thinck fittestt for my sister's interest and mynn. I tack the liberty to desyr this favor off your Lordship, becaws I have allreddey had manney prooffs off your Lordship's kindness; so I believe yow know my respectts for your Lordship, and my villingness to serve your interests, which I vish perfittly veell, and I am,

Your Lordshipp's most affectionatt kinsman,
and most oblidged humble servantt,

HUNTLY.

14th Junn, 82.

¹ The Lady Jean Gordon, afterwards wife of James, fourth Earl of Dunfermline.

XIII.—From JAMES, EARL of ARRAN, one of the Gentlemen of the King's Bedchamber.¹

Winsor, Jun 20, 1682.

My Lord,—I have found so manie markes of your kindnesse to me, that I wer the ungraitfullest man in the worlde not to thank yow for them, by assuring yow ther is no bodie in the worlde is more your freind and servant then I. And I ame seur when ever you'l meak me soe happie as to sho me wher I may more signalie sho this, itt will bee the greatest addition to the favours that I have alreadie received, and that yow can putt upon me.

His Royall Hignesse told me yow had written to him according as yow told me when I pairted from Ed.; and I assur yor Lordship I have found the effectes of your good characters. For this day his Majesty was pleased to signe a warrant for a pension of five hundred a year to me; which he put in with his own hand; and told me he had given orders to my Lord Murray to desir my Lord Treseurer should meak itt effectuell to me, which I know the Duk will second. So I doubt nothing of the sucess of my affaires; therfor I shall now thank your Lordship for your shair in itt, and begge your freindship and countinace, which is extreamlie valuwed by,

My Lord, your Lordship's most faithfull and humble Servant,

ARAN.

XIV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY, Secretary of State.

Whythall, June 24, 1682.

My Lord,—Your Lordship's of the 13th I reseaued, and I am sure the verry next post you had the Commissione for the toune of Edinburgh.

¹ He was the eldest son of William and Anne, Duke and Duchess of Hamilton. He was appointed one of the Gentlemen of the King's Bedchamber, 17th January, 1679: Created Duke of Hamilton, 10th August, 1698; his mother, in whose person the title was hereditary, having resigned in his favour.

Yisterday the Dwk gaue me bothe the Gifts for the tuo Bishops of Iles¹ and Argyll:² that which was singed by His Majesty, (to be canceled,) and the niw draught, which shall be dispatched as sone as possibly I can. The Gift and Assignatione for Allexander Spotswood is past the King's hand, and I hau orderd Andrew Forrester³ to send it to you; and by this ordinary he will send you the letters to my Lord Tressurer and Dwk of Hamilton, appointinge lodgings in the palace of Holyrudhous for the Lord Register. The Gift for the Bishops of Iles and Argyle will be also sent, iff thy can all be in tyme recorded.

The Commisione for securinge the peace of the Hylands shall be dispatched as sone as His Majesty returns from Chattime. He goes on Mond. morninge aerly, and is not to returne befor Vedinsday's night or Thursday morninge; nor hes he yit resolved whither to returne straaight to Windsor, or tutch hear by the way.

I caem from Whythall befor the Kinge had the news of the election of the Shriffs of London, but your Lordship will haue it from other hands. I am inalterably,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull and humble servant,

MORRAY.

XV.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON, Clerk to the Privy Council in Scotland.

Whythall, Saturday, 24th June, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—Though I know you have all that passes heire from better hands, yit your Lordship's commands to me at pairting makes me give you this trouble. This whole day hes been

¹ Archibald Graham :—formerly parson of Rothessay in Bute; Bishop of the Isles, 1680, which office he held at the Revolution.

² Hector Maclean :—He is said to have borne arms for the King in his youth. Bishop of Argyle, 1680; died, 1687.

³ Under Secretary of State; afterwards Sir Andrew Forrester.

spent in the city in the electione of tuo Shireiffs for this yeir; and they are just now at a pol, whither the choise be caryied by the loyall or factious syde. All the fanatick pairty have been much at work in this affaيرة, weil knoweing that a great pairt of the intrest of the pairty depends one the faite of this day.¹

Monmouth and Shafts. doe oppenly promott the phanatick ellectione, notwithstanding of the story which hes been noised about toun for some tyme: as give Mon. hade been makeing applicatione, by the meanes of his Dutches and the Duke of Ormond, to be reconcilled to the King, by the interpositione of his Royall Highnes; to whom (it wes said) he wes to make the most humble acknowledgments immaginable. Bot the work of this day hes sufficiently discovered the follie and falshood of this story.

My Lord Haltoun² and Sir W. S. pairts, Tuesday, for Scotland, haveing done nothing aither in his publict or privat bussines. I observed him whyle I wes at Windsor to meitt with litle countenance from the D., and less from the K.; nor does my Lord Secretary (who is and will be your Lordship's faithfull servant) concerne himselfe in the leist upon his account.

¹ "Those persons that could get upon the hustings as I did, and from thence viewed the floor below, had a prospect as if the Hall had been paved with faces, and full of eyes sparkling, not unpleasant to observe. When the Lord Mayor and Aldermen were come, the Common Officers put the question of confirmation; and then in a trice those that were for it held up their hands (for that is the signal of assent) with arms and fingers distended, all in a continual motion together, which made an odd spectacle. But the dissenters, who were much the greater number, instead of holding up their hands, screwed their faces into a numberless variety of *No's*, in such a sour way, and with so much noise, that any one would have thought all of them had, in the same instant of time, been possessed with some malign spirit that convulsed their visages in that manner . . . This was Midsummer work indeed, extreme hot and dusty, and the partisans strangely disordered every way with crowding, bawling, sweating, and dust; all full of anger, zeal, and filth in their faces; they ran up and down stairs, so that any one not better informed would have thought the place rather a huge Bedlam than a meeting for civil business."—North's Examen, pp. 605-607.

² "5 Julij, 1682.—About this tyme my Lord Halton returned from London, whither he had gone in the beginning of May, contrare to the desire of the Chancellor and Tresurer, who required him to stay, and attend the Committee named by the King, for trying the coinage and mint."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 72.

I know Thom Gordone hes given your Lordship the trouble to deal with my Lord Theasurer, to give a favourable report to my Lord Secretary anent that litle thing which his Royall Highness hes been graciouslie pleased to promise me, to help to bear the expence of this jorney, which my indispositione hes made long and chargable: my earand heir being to serve the publict intrest; and haveing come off the begining of the last month of the session, quhairin I might have had some advantage. All I can expect by that Gift cannot exceed ane hundred and fifty pound; of which honest Thom Gordone¹ shall have a shaire. The Duke thought it very reasonable I suld have some allowance, and only waits for a returne from my Lord Thesaurer. And tho I have writne to his Lordship and expects his kindnes, yit I must altogether depend upon your Lordship in it; to whom I owe much more, and for which I have nothing to returne bot the dutyfull acknowledgment of,

My Dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and obleidged servant.

WILL. PATERSON.

XVI.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER, Under Secretary of State.

Whitehall, 24th June, 1682.

Saterday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Being but just now come in from Kinsington, I have only time to inclose these tuo letters, at my Lord Secretarie's command, which are according to the draughts that were lately sent up, in reference to the lodgeings that are to be prepared for my Lord Register, in the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Comissions for the officers of the Militia, being now ready, wil be sent downe on Monday with Sir William Sharp, who hopes

¹ "Honest Thom Gordon" was appointed Clerk of the Court of Justiciary, November, 1682, on a Gift from the King, superseding a previous appointment to the same office on a Gift from the Lord Justice Clerk.—See Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i. p. 375.

to be at home this day sennight, and will waite on your Lordship, to receive your commands concerning them. For they are of soe great a bulk that they could not be well sent by the post but at severall times; which might (for any thing wee know) occasion some inconveniency there.

Just now I am told that, after a long debate this day about the election of the Shireffs of London, that matter is putt off till Tuesday next. I am, as in all duty bound,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and most humble obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

XVII.—From WILLIAM, MARQUIS of QUEENSBERRY, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.

Sanqr., 27th June, 1682.

My Lord,—To your Lordship's of 15 ye had gotte the trouble of this returne much sooner, but that I knew upon the bearer's comeing their, Hew Wallace's upgoeing would be noised; which I enclyne be as long concealed as possible I have writte fully with him to his Royall Highnes, and transcribed the whole peapers, and gave reasones for everything advised. This could not be doone in a suddain; and besyde, at my first comeing heir, I was importuned with companie and bussienes: so the soonest I could gett him dispatched was Weddensday last; and hee'l certainly have letters for me att Edr. against the Councill day.

Matters heir and in Galloway looke very weell without the least appearance of trouble; butt, for all that, the Forces most not be removed, for reasones your Lordship shall know att meeting. I doubt not but your Lordship hes full account of Cleveres' rancounter att the Bile. It was good he came not a day sooner; for certainly their designe was against him.

Last night I mett with Earle Cassilis and Dumfrees to informe my selfe of the steate of that countrey; which I did, and your Lordship shall know at meeting.

As I resolved at pairting, I designe to waite on your Lordship the night before the Council day, and on my way to touth at Hamiltoune. What ye would have me insinuate to the Duke lett your first beare, which will reach me before I pairt; haveing ordred the bearer to heaste ane expresse to be with me on Fryday's night, with your Lordship's commands, and my Thursdaye's letters with neuse that post brings. D. H. seems apprehensive the Theasourer Depute¹ will weather this storme; but by the inclosed yee'l finde my Lord Secretar of ane other judgement. I delay answering the inclosed till I speake with your Lordship; and doe expect yee'l returne it in your first, with account of bussienesse their worth your trouble, and what ye hear from above, particularly as to the Theasourer Deput and Lundie's² affaires.

I sealed and sent yours to his R. H. with Hew Wallace, and recomended E. Southesk's Signature And if before meeting ye wryte to the Duke, ye will, I conclude, saye what's fitt touching Edr. Castle.³ Undoubtedly expecting the honour of your Lordship's commands on Frydaye's night, I am,

My Dear Lord,

Your Lordship's most ffaithfull and humble servant,

QUEENSBERRY.

For my Lord High Chancelor of Scotland.

¹ Lord Halton, brother of the Earl of Lauderdale.

² The Hon. John Drummond of Lundie, afterwards Earl Melfort, brother of the Earl of Perth. He was appointed Treasurer-depute in room of Lord Halton, in August 1682.

³ The Marquis of Queensberry was appointed Governor of Edinburgh Castle on the death of the Earl of Lauderdale, who was now fast sinking under his maladies, and the reverses of fortune.

XVIII.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.¹

London, June y^e 27, 82.

My Lord,—The Marquess of Atholl and my Lord Register have both assur'd me of your Lordship's favour to me; and tho I was not surpris'd, yet the confirmation of ane honnour one prizes so much is alwayes mighty acceptable, and requires acknowledgments greater then words can make: therfor I shall only say, that I shall doe what I can to deserve it.

The bustle that happend at the election of the new Sheriffs has putt of the King's voyage to Chattham. Yesterday the present Sheriffs were committed to Towr for a riott; and I beleeve theyll be out to-morrow, by their Habeas corpus. The election is putt off till to-morrow se'ennight.

I confesse I ought to have paid you this duty before now; and tho idlenesse will be a bad excuse to you, yet I must own it, because it's true. If you would have me mend that fault, you must command me something for your service, for I should not be slack in that; and I cannot doubt to obtain this request, since I hope you are so just to me as to thinke me entirely,

My Lord,

Your most faithfull, humble, and obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

Cap. Creichton's remission is to be past now, and he has desird me to begg your Lordship's favour in it.

¹ Second Earl of Middleton. After performing the functions of Envoy Extraordinary from the English Court to that of Vienna, he was, in September, 1682, appointed one of the Secretaries of State for Scotland: an Extraordinary Lord of Session, July, 1684.

XIX.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY, Secretary of State.

Whythall, June 27th, 1682.

My Lord,—On Davidsons was, by the Lord Register and some others, recommended to succed to A. Meisser's place, as haneinge transacted withe on Wachope, now deed. But Mr. Thomas Gordoune haneinge tould me of a cussinge of his, who he kniw you intended to recommend for that imployment, I haue resolved not to medill or say any thinge of it to the Kinge or the Dwk, untill you shall communicat your inclinations to me; which I intreat may be as sone as conveniently you can; and you may be sure I will still serve you most affectionatly

The tuo last Shriifs of London, Pilkinton and Shute, uear, for ther ryotus and irregular procedings at the electione of the new Shriifs on Seturday last, sent prisoners to the Tower; whar thy yit lye; being conducted throughe all London in ther oune coatch, only with two yeoman of the guard. That court was ajurned to this day, but I haue not yit heard what is done: you will hear it from others who stay in toune. I am,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

Sins the urytinge of my letter, I hear the court for electione of the Shriifs is ajurned till to-morow sevenight.

XX.—From CROMWELL LOCKHART of LEE.

My Lord,—The town of Lanerk hauing been very much wronged, as I am informed, by the Magistrates of late, in mispending of the town's reuenuue, and contracting of new debt without paying the anuall rent of the old debt; in oppressing the

burgesses; and particularly in the last fine imposed by his Majesty's Privie Counsell: it can be made appear that the Magistrates haue laid on sixteen thousand five hundreth markes upon the town, as the stent roll can clearly show, for the payment of six thousand markes imposed by your Lordships of the Counsell as a fine upon the town:—I must humbly, therfor, beg your Lordship will be pleased to see them redressed, who are already ingadged to be as I am, with all respect, upon all occasions,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, devoted, humble Servant,

C. LOCKHART.

Lee, 1st July, 1682.

For My Lord Chancellor att Edinburgh.

XXI.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Whythall, 4th July, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—His Royal Highnes comandit me to acquaint your Lordship, that being informd that severall seditious and traitorous lybells, which daylie swarme heir, were sent down to Scotland: particularlie a most villanous and bloody one called *JULLIAN the Apostat*, a copie of which I have sent your Lordship in this packett: that therfor your Lordship would be pleased to take any legall course that may be to stop the importing and spreading therof in Scotland; where if it suld fall into the hands of our blind and bloody phanaticks, might have a most mischiveous influence. The author of this wicked lybell is supposed to be one Johnson,¹ chaplaine to Russell, Earle of Bedford; who himselfe is a

¹ Samuel Johnson, an English clergyman, (Born 1649—Died 1703,) well known for his not very temperate advocacy of what have been called "Revolution principles." Dr. Hickes answered Johnson's tract in 1683, by a publication entitled "*Jovian; or an Answer to Julian the Apostate*," which was twice printed in that year. Johnson prepared a rejoinder to Hickes, under the title of "*Julian's Arts to undermine and extirpate Christi-*

very factious persone, and a most invetterat enemie to his R. H. Ther is also ane other mallicious peaper, consisting of some thre or four shifts, intituled, *The Common Council's Right in electing of Shireiffs for London and Midlesex*, containeing most bitter invectives against the Government and present Ministers, supossed to be wreatne by a country man of our own. By the next your Lordship shall have a double of it; bot this JULLIAN being the maister-peice of villanie: the designe of it in effect being not only to exclude the Duke's succession, bot even to animat the people to distroy his Royall persone.

Ther is great expectatione what shall be the event of the morrow's meitting at Gildhall. It is of great importance to the King and Government, as your Lordship very weill knowes.

The King and Duke returned hither on Sunday's morning, haveing gone no further then the North Foreland, haveing mighty tempest, so that all the yeaughts receaved considerable damiage. Blissed be God for thair preservation.

I need not put your Lordship in mynd of what I wreit before, to beg your Lordship to speak to my Lord Thesaurer anent that Gift of Escheit which his R. H. hes been pleased to promise me. Whatever it may amount to, (which I believe cannot be

anity;" but this work, although printed off, he deemed it prudent to suppress. Upon an information preferred against him in 1683, in the King's Bench, Johnson was fined 500 merks for writing and publishing "Julian the Apostate." Dryden, of course with the exaggeration of party satire, thus notices him:—

" Still violent, whatever cause he took,
But most against the party he forsook.
For renegadoes, who ne'er turn by halves,
Are bound in conscience to be double knaves.
So this prose-prophet took most monstrous pains,
To let his masters see he earn'd his gains.
But as the Devil owes all his imps a shame,
He chose th' Apostate for his proper theme;
With little pains he made the picture true,
And from reflection took the rogue he drew."

Absalom and Achitophel, part ii., v. 264–273. After the Revolution, Johnson was offered preferment, but not such as to satisfy his own notion of his deserts.

above ane hundreth and fifty pound,) I shall be altogithir determined in it by my Lord Treasurer and your Lordship, and shall never fail to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and most obleidged Servant,
WILL. PATERSON.

XXII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 6th July, 1682.

Thursday at night,

May it please your Lordship,—The inclosed, from my Lord Secretary, giving an account of what was yesterday done in Guildhall, it is not fitt for me to trouble you with a repetition therof. But notwithstanding of that saucy irregular election of the phanatick Shireffs, yet it is beleived by very judicious men, that, whenever the Lord Mayor shal be able to goe to the Guildhall, (which probably may be to-morrow,) matters will be so ordered as that Mr. North shall stand as one of the Shireffs for the next year, notwithstanding of all that can be done by the faction against him: whereof however it is best to say litle untill the matter of the election shal be at an end, which is expected to be in few dayes; and during that time the Court will remaine here. I am with all possible duty and respect,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

XXIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY, Secretary of State.

Whythall, July 6, 1682.

My Lord,—Yisterday I had yours of the 29th, telinge me what you haue wrytin to the Dwk conserninge the Bishop of Edinburgh.

And upon a letter I had from him by the former post, intimatinge your oppinion conserninge his call to come up, I moued his Majesty in it; who commanded me to wryt to my Lord Primat as you advysed. But becaus his R. Highnes was then at Windsor I delayed it that post that I might acquaint him withe it befor it was sent; which I did yisterday's morninge. And now I send the Letter to my Lord St. Andrew's under the Bishop of Edinburgh's cover, who will acquaint you of it, and caus delyver it as you judge fitt.

Now that matters of the Tressury ar to be fully concluded, I thought it proper to spek to the Dwk of the assingment I had from Dwk Lawderdell on the excresonss of the inland excyse for the 3000 lib. ster. due to me for the profets of the Signet thes two years. The Dwk promised befor the Kinge that himself and Lord Tressurer shoulde fall upon a way for my pyment, which he says shall be done; and tould me that by this post he woulde uryt to the Tressurer of it, and bid me doe the same; that he may propos the way of my pyment: wharin I besitch you fauour me uithe your friendship and assistans. It is of great consern to me, and my credit hear depends on it. You may easily judge what a troble it hes bene to me to liue hear tuo years mostly on my oune credit. I will troble you withe no mor of this, being perfectly assured of your kyndnes.

The election of the Shriifs of London is not yit ouer. Yisterday the Lord Maeor was takin uithe a fitt of the stone just as he was going to the hall, so he sent the Recorder to ajurne the meeting till to morrow; yit did the former Shriifs prosed to ther polinge. What will be the event you shall know hirafter. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

The Commission for the peace of the Hyelands is past; uithe

only on persone I moued the Dwk to ade to it, viz., John Cuminge of Lougy in Morray : a most honest man.

XXIV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, July, 8, 1682.

My Lord,—Yours of the 1st of July I had yisterday. There is littill of moment to informe you of from this at present. The Hall for electione of the Shriffs is yet delayed to Fryday next. The Lord Mayor is a most honest man, but too, too timerous, which ill people tak advantage off.

His Majesty and the Dwk ar this day gone to Windsor. I shall goe ther on Monday; and I houp Mr. Wallace shall be despatched befor ther retorne hear, which will be on Thursday. Your Lordship may be sure I shall be verry carefull of any thinge you recommend. James Gordon's bussines shall be dispatched without delay, and I am,

My Lord,
Your most humble and fathefull Servant,
MORRAY.

XXV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER, Under Secretary of State.

Whitehall, 8th July, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—Although my Lord Mayor came yesterday to the Guildhall (where was a great multitude of people, without any disorder) yet soe much time was spent in advising with lawiers the legality of what was done there last Wensday by the Shireffs, and a great parte of the Commons, as that his Lordship was at last pleased to adjourne the court till Friday next the 14th instant, when wee are like to see some end made of the debates concerning the election of the Shireffs of London and

Middlesex; whereof it is generally beleived that Mr. North will be one.

The King, Queen, and Duke went this day to Windsor, from whence his Majestie and his Royall Highnes will returne hither next Thursday. Thay continue, (God be thanked,) as doth the Duchesse, (who stayd still at Windsor,) in very good health: which is all (worthy of your trouble) that can be sayd at this time by,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

Since the writing of my lettre, I received the inclosed for your Lordship from my Lord Secretary, by whom I am commanded to send you this Commission for securing the peace of the Highlands.

XXVI.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Whythall, 8th July, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—Yeisterday the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Shireffs, and Comon Councill mett very frequentlie att Gildhall, according to the ajorment made by the Recorder in the Mayor's name the Wedensday before; where after long debaite, councill being heard one both sydes, Wedensday's proceedings in the pretendit ellection of Papillion and Deboies was declared void and null, and that illegall meitting upon Vedensday declared no court. The Lord Mayor hade seventein Aldermen who concurred with him, and only seven being against him. Upon which the L. Mayor, with consent of the Aldermen, adjorned the court for confirmation of Mr. North, and ellecting ane other Shireiff till Friday nixt, when its generallie beleived that Mr. North will be confirmed. This is extreamlie discouradgeing to the whigs, who are als much cast down by yeisterday's proceedings as they were elevat by what wes so illegallie done one Wedensday.

This evening the whole court vent for Windsor, and returns Thursday's night: the King beeing much concerned to have at leist one good Shreff for this yeir. The enclosed paper is a most violent lybell, which is supposed to be done by a countrie man of our own: I believe the Bishop of Edinburgh may guess att the style. This is all the trouble your Lordship hes at this tyme from,

May it please your Lordship,
Your most faithfull and most obleidged Servant,

W. P.

I most not ommitt to tell yor Lordship that his Majestie conferred the honor of knighthood this day at 12 upon the BANTAM AMBASSADOR, who is now SIR PUNGERON DIAPARA !¹

XXVII.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Whythall, July 15th, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—The Lord Secretarie's not sending a black box the last post wes the reason your Lordship hade not the trouble of a lyne from me. This morneing his Majestie came to Whythall, where the Councill sat long; the bussiness vnder ther consideration being the ellection of the Shireiffs: the Lord Mayor and most of the Aldermen haveing attendit his Majestie after the Councill: To whom his Majestie did earnestly recomend that they

¹ The Knight here referred to was one of the chiefs of an embassy of eight, who arrived in this country in the end of April, 1682, on a mission from the King of Bantam; where, at that time, the East India Company had a factory, but which was extirpated not many months afterwards. At taking leave of the English Court, Pungeron Nia Para and Keay Nabee, the two heads of the embassy, were knighted, and presented with the swords used in the ceremony. The Bantam Ambassadors were attended by a train of thirty persons, and appear to have excited some gossiping curiosity at the time. Dryden drops a passing ray on the personal beauties of these Bantams, when he speaks of—

"Flat faces, such as would disgrace a screen,
Such as in Bantam's embassy were seen,—
Unrais'd, unrounded."

(Epistle to Sir Godfrey Kneller, v. 53-55.)

suld not pas from the Mayor's vndoubted priviledge of nominateing one of the Shireffs; and that therfor my Lord Mayor suld againe propose, to the Common Hall to morrow, Mr. North, whom he hade alreadie nominat to be confirmed by them; and that he had recomendit to his Judges in the Court of Exchequer to take Mr. North's oath as one of the Shireffs for this year; and assured the Mayor and Aldermen that he would protect them in the discharge of ther dwity, and would not suffer so considerable a priviledge of the Chaire of London to be so ryotouslie invaidit. This hes given much lyfe to all honest men in the city; and it's hoped to morrow all things will goe weill: for which I shall be very glad to give your Lordship ane account by the Saturday's post.

This day the young Earle of Osserie, grandchild to the Duke of Ormond, was contracted to the Lord Hyd's. daughter: (that pretie young lady who wes in Scotland:) which is good news to all good men heir; being a certain cement tuixt thoes great persones: which sufficiently confounds the falsehood of that calumnies, as if the noble Duke of Ormond hade been a favourer of the other syde.

My dear Lord, all I can returne your Lordship is my humble and hearty thanks for your kyndnes in that Gift of Escheit proposed for me. I assure your Lordship I never hade the arrogance to pretend to so great a thing as it seemes that is represented to be; and your Lordship's kind overtour of getting Thom Gordone and me a Gift of thre hundred pound, is much more than ever I aimed att by that Escheit. Bot whatever his Royall Highnes or your Lordship shall doe in that affaire, or in any thing els that consernes any particular of myne, shall never alter my zeall in your Lordship's service, who am, whyle I breath, resolved to continow

Your Lordship's most faithfull, and most
obleidged Servant,

WILL. PATERSON.

My Lord, I am just now told at the closeing of this, that the

mariage wes consumat yeisternight betuixt the E. of Ossery and my Lord Hyd's. daughter.

XXVIII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 15th July, '82.

Saterday at midnight.

May it please your Lordship,—The bearer hereof, Mr. Wallace, being just now goeing to the post house, I am forced to faile in my duty of sending an account of the transactions of yesterday and this day at the Guildhall; for I was soe much taken up about his dispatches that I had no time to write or minde any other thing. And now that his business is done, he is impatient to be gone; but I have told him all that I know, and he will informe your Lordship of it.

Some few dayes agoe at Windsor, I was asked by Mr. Gordon, at my Lord Hyde's house, whether I had not letters for him and myselfe from your Lordship, for that he had notice from Scotland of your having sent such to me. Bot I doe humbly assure your Lordship that I had no commands any manner of way from you since parting: so if your Lordship sent any to me they are certainly miscarried.

The Duke went about 8 this night, and the King will goe about tuo houres hence to Windsor; matters being (God be thanked) very well in the City, notwithstanding of the factious partie's pretensions of standing by their former election of Dubois and Papilion. For the election of Mr. North is sufficiently confirmed, and Mr. Box is legally elected: so that it is not doubted but they will act as Sheriffs for the ensuing year: which is the account that has

come from the City to the King; and that it may prove true is the hearty prayer of,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

XXIX.—From JAMES EARL of PERTH.

Drd., 17th July, 82.

My Lord,—To be importund with insignificant addresses is a part of your Lordship's perquisites, for no body in such a station but must look for it; but those who love and honor you so entirly as I do should not assist in the thing. However, my Lord, what you must needs look upon as trivial and impertinent, may be the effect of esteem in us, and considderd as duty; and if this truble proceed from so good a cause, forgive it.

I sent your Lordship my letter to my brother on Satturday. I have nou sent him an enlargement upon the subject, and I hope he wil endeavor in evrie thing to do what may become him; but I long to knou the rise of his endeavor (if he used any) to limite my Lord Thresurer's commission. It is too saucy for me to enquire if your Lordship has had any letter from my brother since I left you; but if you have as much leisure as to command any of your servants to signify to me what either he says, or what els you may communicate to me, it is but sutable to that goodness you have ever had for,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient faithfulest Servant,
PERTH.

We are so plagued with theeving here, it wold pittie any heart to see the condition the poor people are in.

For my Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

XXX.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

Windsor, Julij 29, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—Lord Ross¹ is not yet returnd from London; how soone he doeth the King will send him home. If he pett and offer his comission it wil be accepted, and disposd as you advise.

E. Sunderland, by the Ds. of Portsmouth's mediation, is again reconciled to the King, and kysd his hand yesterday, as also the Duke's; after confession of his fault and his penitence. The Duke desireth non of his friends to mistake it, for he sayeth it will [have] no ill influence upon his R. H. interest: God grant it may not.

The Duchese lyes in at S. James's, whether she goeth on Wednesday next, and lyeth at Richmond all that night. The Duchesse of Modena is sent for, to be with her Ro. Highnes at her travell. God send her a safe deliverance and a livlie boy. She is verie wele and heartie.

I sall for most part stay at London, and once a week come hither to attend the King; for now I shall haue frequent occasion to wait on the Duke at S. James's; and when he thinks fitt I sall goe to the King.

In this summer season most of the Bishops are out of towne; which will oblige me to manie jorneyes from London to Farnham, to Fulham, to Oxford, and to Eli, &c.; which will make my abode here more uneasie and more chargeable to me. I shall not faile to doe your Lordship right with the English Clergie, by representing to them how safe our poor Church and her concerns are in your Lordship's hands. And indeed they are much safer then if in our owne; in regard that if anie of ourselvs were in your sta-

¹ William, twelfth Lord Ross. He had just succeeded to his father George, Lord Ross, who died in April, 1682.

tion, and had parts and integritie never so commensurat to discharge it, yet our actings wold be construd partiall and unequall in our owne favors; which cannot be suggested by enemies against your Lordship nor your actions. This I said to the Duke, and also to the King. What I said in a long audience to his Majestie in his closet, I sall give your Lordship ane account of at meeting. It wes just and true, and it satisfied the King; and I did justice to your Lordship's merit, parts, and integritie in his Majestie's service, and in what might be expected by your prudent and steddie endeavors.

My Lord, I sal be at great charge in this countrey. If it wold please my Lord Thesaurer to order Sir William Sharp to send me a bill or credit for 200 lib., it wer a great kyndnes to me. His Lordship, since Mr. Wallace returne, will see if he haue allowance for the Church's publict pension; and out of that fond my expenses will be allowd to me by the King; and my Lord Primat will concurr with your Lordship to interpose for this favor in my behalf. I am loath to write to my Lord Thesaurer about it, being assur'd of his Lordship's goodnes enough to me; but if your Lordship will take the trouble to move it, I sall owe it for a new obligation.

Stories go here of Sunderland's being to be made Privie Seale in place of E. Anglesey; who wil be (as is said) turnd out upon this contest with D. Ormond: who confounded his Lordship, Thursday last at Council. And some say E. Essex is to come again to the King; and I saw these two days here the Ds. of Monmouth; who deals much to haue the Duke her husband reconcild &c.: but these needs conformation: God preserve and direct the King.

Honest Thom Gordon will write to your Lordship of what he found at the bath of E. Balcarras, and Drumelliar: pardon this freedom; and save to my L. Thesaurer, I know you wil be tender to say anie thing of it.

The Provost of Edr. writes to me to move the King, and hath sent, for this end, a petition to the Duke to approve and authorise their Act of Council for raising the money to pay the [Toune's] new companie;¹ and says that your Lordship is pleas'd with it; and if so, I sall promote it: it seems verie reasonable.

The Duke and Duchesse onlie dyne at Richmond on Wednesday, and wil be at St. Jamzs at night.

Most humblie adieu,

My deare Lord.

For the Right Honorable my Lord High Chancelor of Scotland:—These.

XXXI.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

Agust 1, 1682, London.

May it please your Lordship,—I am just now come from Windsor; and saw the D. and Ds. of Lauderdale by the way hither at Ham, in companie with the E. of Murray. The Lady Downe is brought to bed two moneths befor her tyme; she is in a hopefull way of recoverie; but the child, being a boy, is a dying.

The Duke cometh in hither to-morrow with the Duchess by water, and her Highnes is to be broght to bed at S. James's.

Lord Ross is commanded home immediatlie. E. Murray went on Sunday's night with a message from the King to him for that end. He wes surprised with it; but the Earle told him his Majestie could not beare the preparative of coming from his command out of the kingdom without the Council's leaue. I find he is upon a designe

¹ 13th *Maij*, 1682. The toune of Edinburgh, because of the late uproar among them of 3rd May last, are ordained by the Privy Counsell to levy and pay a company of 108 men, to serve for the toune's constant guard on all emergencies, and the Duke to name the captain and other officers . . . so it was raised; and by ane act of the toune counsell in September last, the inhabitants are stinted to pay them some a groat, some 5 pence, and the highest at 6 pence a week, for paying them."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i. p. 337. See above, p. 16.

to part with his command, and hath told Coll. Worden that his effairs, now that his father is dead, cannot admitt of his attendance upon that service; but withall he projects to hau leave to sell his office. With this I aquanted his R. H., and of its ill consequents if allowed; to which he replyed he wold take care not to gratifie him in anie such motion, if he sould propose it to the King, or to himself.

The marriage of my L. Hide's daughter to my Lord Ossorie, grandchild to D. Ormond, is made by his R. H.'s means, and is verie good service to the King at this season.

Much talk is here of E. Essex, and D. Monmouth's application to be reconciled to the King, and even of E. Shaftsburie's: of which I know nothing certain: onlie this I know, that they must either return to their duetie and submission to the King, else this land is like to prove too hotte for some of them.

To-morrow I goe to Lambeth, and so about amongst the Bishops and eminent clergiemmen; doeing the service and justice I intend to his R. Hs. and to the King's Ministers, and to your Lordship in particular; and to inform them of the state of our poor Church, keeping up our correspondence with this Church.

At Ham I saw my Lord Harcars,¹ who came thither yesternight. The late L. Register is expected there evrie hour, I think to advise about the settlements of D. L.'s estates. I found there that D. Lauderdale resolved to wait on the Duke to-morrow at Richmond, and to speak to his Hs. about his pension of 2500 lib. out of the excise; but his Grace will meet with no satisfying ansuer, I conceive, upon that head.

I did not goe to Ham without his R. H.'s leaue, and I never will putt anie subject alive in the ballance with his R. Highnes, nor serve anie mortall in opposition to his interest; and I know your Lordship will trust me to say trueth in this matter from my heart.

¹ Sir Roger Hog of Harcarse, one of the Lords of Session and Justiciary.

If your Lordship think fitt to move my L. High Thesaurer to order S. Will. Sharp to doe what I desired in my last, it will be a seasonable kyndnes to me; but I humblie submitt it to your Lordship and to him, to doe in it or not as you sall judge convenient. I ever am,

May it please your Lordship,
Your Lordship's most humble and faithfull Servand,
JO. EDINBURGEN.

For the Right Honourable my Lord High Chancellor of Scotland :
—These.

XXXII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, August 3d, 1682.

My Lord,—His R. Highnes gaue me a paper contaening the names of divers persons to be added to the Commisione of Tithes: but calinge to mynd that a former letter was past the 20th of Aprile last, when your Lordship and my Lord Tressurer uer hear, in which was most of the persons now named, I tould the Dwk of it; who hes orderd me to send a list of thos who uer formerly naemed (which is inclosed,) that your Lordship may compaer it withe that which uas now sent; and what you then advyse in the matter will be done: only the Dwk bid me tell you that he desyred the President of the Sessione,¹ Lord Castilhill,² and Lord Boyne³ might be thre of them; and ther is rounge for the Marquis of Montross in place of E. Roxburghe.

¹ Sir David Falconer of Newton:—An Ordinary Lord of Session, 1676; a Lord of Justiciary, March, 1678. He was named President of the Court on the promotion of the Earl of Aberdeen to be Chancellor, June 1682. A Collection of Reports of Decisions of the Court of Session made by him was published after his death.

² John Lockhart of Castlehill, third son of Sir James Lockhart of Lee: Appointed an Ordinary Lord of Session, August, 1665; a Lord of Justiciary, February, 1671. He was removed from office, 1678, but was again restored, April, 1682.

³ Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Boyne:—Named an Ordinary Lord of Session, 14th October, 1681.

It's lyk you may haue divers conectors, as people affecte, on E. Sunderland's beinge brought to court; and inded it does mutch alarum many honest men hear, whatever his penitence or professions may be. Yit I must tell you, and I houp on good ground, that he will not be advanced furdur; but I uant not my ounie doubts. I uishe thy proue without caus. I am unalterably,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

Duke Hamilton.

Earle of Perth.

Earle of Strathmore.

Earle of Roxburgh.

Earle of Southesk.

Sir David Falconer of Newton.

Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Boyne.

Lieutent. General Drummond

Gordonstone, younger.

Sir James Fleeming.

Baillie Charles Murray.

These persons were added to the Commission for Plantation of Kirks and valuation of Teinds, by a letter from his Majesty to the Commissioners, 20th Aprill, 1682.

XXXIII.—FROM ALEXANDER, EARL OF MORAY.

Whythall, August, 1682.

My Lord,—Mr. Thomas Gordon beinge to take his jurnay tomorrow for Scotland, giue me leaue to recommend him to you as a loyall, fathefull, and honest man, and a person I haue particuler respecte for, and obligations too. What I would say to you, had I the hapines to sie you face to face, he will communicat uithe fidelety and discretion; ther beinge no persone uisethe you more hapines, or is more sincearly yours.

I am tould the Marqus of Huntly hes not yit changed the holdinge of his estate, which I wonder at: it beinge a matter of sutch importance to that noble famely; in which I challenge a par-

particular concerne, and shall not be wantinge, upon all occasions, to contribut my service as it can be usfull. And I am most perfectly,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

XXXIV.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

London, Agust 8, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—I can add litle to what I wrote by Mr. Thom. Gordon : onlie Halifax is created a Marquess of the same title. The Duke wil be here to-night, and expects now ouer this week the report concerning the mint.

L. Glendoig¹ and L. Harcars are at Hamm.; and I beleeeue the D. of Lauderdale will not settle his estate upon L. Hatton, in the present circumstances. At my being there, his Grace insinuated his aversion from that settlement.

L. Ross is to send his Signature for som forfeiturs to E. Murray (as he says) by his R. Highnes direction; but the forfeiturs being now putt into anoyr way and method, I think my Lord Thesaurer's opinion and your Lordship's were necessarie to be offered in that affair.

I am oblidged to my L. Thesaurer, who hath delayd to value the grounds belonging of late to the See of Edbr., and now taken in to his Majestie's palace, til my return; and I hope your Lordship and he will help me to a just valuation of it; by which the See will be bettered.

¹ Sir Thomas Murray of Glendoick :—Appointed an Ordinary Lord of Session, May, 1674; Lord Clerk Register, November, 1677. He was related to the Duchess of Lauderdale; and on the fall of the Duke, when a new commission was issued for the Court of Session, (14th October, 1681,) Lord Glendoick was superseded. He was the editor of a well-known edition of the Scottish Statutes.

And I wil be much straitned if his Lordship doe not order S. Will. Sharp to send me credit, as I proposd formerlie to your Lordship; especiallie in my journeyings to Farnham, Oxford, Cambridge, &c.; and now that 300 libs. are setled upon the Church, his Lordship may safelie doe it, being assured that it wil be allowed.

At Lambeth were, to day, my Lords of Canterbury, London, Rochester, Lincolne, and Peterburrow. After dinner wee discoursed till 6 at night; and they were much comforted, as they professd, by the just account I gave them of the present case of our Church and State, and of the integritie, soundness, and steddiness of our present Ministers in the service of the Crowne and Church. I omitted not my duetie to satisfie them concerning your Lordship and my Lord Treasurer.

Our foolish stories of your Lordship's and my Lord Treasurer's inclinations to poperie haue been industriouslie spread here; and I gave their Lordships verie satisfing accounts as to your Lordships' professions, and zeale for the true Protestant religion; of which I had perfit assurance, and did giv them full conviction.

I sal be, God willing, at Farnham on Thursday, and so by next post your Lordship can expect no letter from me. Lay your commands on me as your Lordship sees cause, and they sal be punctuallie obeyed by,

May it please your Lordship,
Your Lordship's owne faithfull and humble Servand,
JO. EDINBURGEN.

The Earle is now Marquess of Halifax. Sunderland makes no further advances. Will.¹ hath anie other news, and will shew them to your Lordship with my humble duetie.

¹ Sir William Paterson, the brother of the Bishop of Edinburgh.

XXXV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Agust 8th, 1682.

My Lord,—You haue heard from the Bishop of Edinburgh himself severall tymes sins his arryvall hear. Bothe the Kinge and the Dwke reseaved him very graciously, and in his representations to bothe hes done you a great deall of right, and I can certinly assur you is your Lordship's fathefull and firm freind.

Mr. Thomas Gordon parted from this yisterday, and by him I wrot a short lyne to you. Many storrys ar talked hear, wharof you will have a better account from him than uear fitt for me to wryt : so that I shall at this tyme only funder ade that I am most sincearly,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

XXXVI.—From SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE.

Stamford, 15th, 8 o'clock.

Right Honourable,—Heer I wearied and did take occasione of the stage coach ; but had not stayed half ane houre, when a gentlman, who came post from London, told us that the Dutches was brought to bed of a boy safely on Sunday's night. Since that tyme 3 or 4 gentlemen and as many ladies, who were in the iun, I made bold with, and all who have come near us since, are so loyall drinking the blewcap, and his Father and Mother and old Rowlie's health, that, albeit I had other news, (as I have not,) I wowl'd not

mix them with this. The E. of P[erth] rode on; all I have to say more is: God be thanked.¹ I am,

My Lord,

Your most faithfull Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

Excuse Stamford paper.

XXXVII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 15th August, 1682.

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Being just now come from Windsor, I have not time to trouble you much; yet I cannot (without a great failour of my duty) omitt the acquainting your Lordship of the glade tideings of her Royall Highnesse having (betuixt 7 & 8 of the clock) this morning been safely brought to bed of a fine daughter, after a short and easy labour: God be thanked for this great mercy to us all. The Duke was at Windsor when an expresse went with the good news, and after taking leave of their Majesties, he took horse immediately, and came hither with all possible expedition.

I had the honour of waiting upon his Royall Highnes as he was putting on his booties; when he was pleased to give me a petition to your Lordship from Mr. Andrew Forbes, to take care of it to the utmost of my power; which I shall not faile to doe. But I shall not give your Lordship any more trouble about it at this time, (having writen at greater length to my Lord Kemnay.² upon

¹ Otway, in an Address to the Duchess of York, on her return from Scotland, bids—

“Time have a care: bring safe the hour of joy,

When some blest tongue proclaims a royal boy.” (v. 17, 18.)

Sir George appears to have eagerly pledged the poet's vaticination, when he encountered at Stamford some waggish tongue “proclaiming a royal boy;” for which, he says in a subsequent letter, he “drank his penance.”

² Sir George Nicolson of Kemnay. He was appointed an Ordinary Lord of Session in place of Lord Haddo, on his promotion to the Chancellorship, June, 1682. He unsucces-

this subject,) further than that ther is no doubt but the Petitioner may expect soe much as wil be well worth the looking after, if he can give unquestionable prooffe of his being the nearest of kin to the lately deceased Mr. James Forbes. And soe farre as my poor endeavors can be of any use to him, he may rest fully assured of them, with all the sincerity and zeale that can be showne by,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

XXXVIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE.

Right Honorable,—The E. of P[erth] came hither yesternight, and was with the Duke: from him your Lordship will know what past This night I came; but the D. was gone for Windsor ere I came, whither the E. of P., Lundie,¹ and I, will follow to-morrow.

I haue had litle tyme to inquire in any effaires, but if our folk had more couradge, I find it thought they would have much more successe; and the vnanimity and fixedness of yow in Scotland is at once both acceptable and usefull heer to all good men. This is all the tyme will allow to be writt by,

My Lord,

Your most humble Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

London, 17th Agust, 1682.

I begg pardon for my untrue intelligence from Stanfoord. I was deceaved by reports, and drank my pennance.

For my Lord High Chancelor of Scotland.

fully contested the representation of the County of Aberdeen in Parliament, against Sir Alexander Seton of Pitmedden, in 1685.

The Earl of Perth's brother, afterwards Earl of Melfort.

XXXIX.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

London, August 17, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—To beleue, if I had anie thing worthie of your notice or trouble I wold not faile to write it; but save what I said to my brother,¹ who will shew your Lordship evrie tittle I write to him, I had nothing to say.

The yong, fair, litle, sweet Princesse was yesterday christend at S. James's² by Bp. London; D. Ormond, godfather, and Countesses of Arundell and Clarendon godmothers; the Duke himself present at all the office. The King came yesterday, and visited the Duchesse and here babe; dyned with his R. Brother at the D. of Ormond's, and returnd in the evening to Windsor.

Things goe wele here, and haue a comfortable prospect. The King, the Duke, and the Ministers are very confident that the matter of the Sheriffs, and of the Quo Warranto, will goe wele. The Duke sayth that E. Sunderland is a most sincere convert and penitent; and it's beleueed by manie that Ds. Portsmouth is truelie a friend to his R. Hs.

E. Perth came yesternight, (but left Tarbett³ at Grantam, who wil be here this night in the York coach,) and wes some short tyme with the Duke. His R. Hs. hunts this day in Windsor forrest. L. Halton will not be supported here, onlie I think the Duke will preserve him from restitution.⁴ God send honest men to the King and Duke, and firm freends to your Lordship, to succeed in his

¹ Sir William Paterson.

² She was named Charlotte Maria.

³ Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, afterwards Earl of Cromarty. He at this time filled the office of Lord Clerk Register.

⁴ "They [the Commission for trying the state of the coinage and the mint under Lord Halton's administration of it] frame the report without allowing Halton any sight of it; and sends Perth and the Register with it to London."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. 1, p. 356; see also p. 373.

offices if he leane them. Duke told Justice Clerk¹ that he could not allow of his father's coming hither, till he saw the Report and heard E. Perth and L. Tarbett, gif wes upon the road.

The death of the Countesse of Murray² hath infinitle discomposd her husband, who cannot come abroad till the corps be one putt into the yaught that carries them for Scotland.

I must pray your Lordship to countenance and owne the present magistrats of Edr., who wil be directed by you in what concerns the King's service, and will honestlie follow your Lordship's directions. Some, I hear, intend to disturb their ensueing election, by amusing the people with rumors and jealousies of their owne creation; but I know your Lordship sufficientlie seeth the great securitie and ease of the Government in what relates to Edinburgh, to consist in having men in the magistracie who will punctuallie obey orders from autoritie. I spoke a litle in this particular to the Duke, and that some might medle in the concerns of that towne, wherby the Government might be disturbed, and the magistrats discouraged. But his R. Hs. told me that he wold hear non, nor be advised by anie in the matters of Edbr., save by your Lordship and me. And indeed it is of great importance to haue the government of it in honest and loyall hands, who may faithfullie support the samen, without projects and designes of their owne, or selling of their litle services too deare.

I hope your Lordship will pardon me for writing as I did by honest Mr. Thomas Gordon, it flowing from the concern I haue for your Lordship's interest and securitie.

I must now beseech your Lordship to write to the Duke, (since my Lord Secretarie is cleer in it, and will joine with your Lordship's desire: as indeed his Royall Highnes is also satisfied of the justice

¹ Richard Maitland of Over Gogar, eldest son of Lord Halton; appointed Lord Justice Clerk, April, 1680; afterwards fourth Earl of Lauderdale.

² Emilia, daughter of Sir William Balfour of Pitcullo, Lieutenant of the Tower of London.

and pious designe of what is proposd,) that a letter may be sent by the King to his Privie Council, to destinat so much of the annuall rents of the money mortified by Thomas Moodie,¹ not exceeding ane thousand lib. sterl. : for buying or building ane sufficient house and lodgeing for the Bp. of Edinburgh and his successors; and this to be done, and the money bestowed at the sight, and direction, and supervision of the L. Chancellor, L. St. Andrews, L. Thesaurer, the Provost, and Bishop of Edinbrgh, or of anie others whom your Lordship sall judge fitt, or of anie three of them. Your Lordship knows, that by Act of Parliament the destination and application of that mortified money is referred to the Privie Council. I sall ever be,

May it please your Lordship,

Your Lordship's most humble and most faithfull Servand,

JO. EDINBURGEN.

¹ Thomas Mudie of Dalry had bequeathed the sum of 20,000 merks, "for building of a church in the place called the Grass-market, within the Burgh."—Acts of Parliament of Scotland, vol. viii., pp. 357, 358.

"They [the Magistrates of Edinburgh] obtain ane Act anent Thomas Moodie's legacy and mortification to them of 20,000 merks, that in regard *they have no use for a church*, (which was the end wherto he destined it,) that therfor they might be allowed to convert it to some other publick work. The Articles and Parliament recommended the Toune to the Privy Counsell, to see the will of the defunct fulfilled as near as could be; for it comes near to sacrilege to invert a pious donation. The Toune offers to buy with it a pale of bells, to hang in St. Geill's steiple, to ring musically, and warne us to the church, *and to build a TOLBUITH above the West Port of Edinburgh, and to put Thomas Moodie's name and armes THEREON*. Some thought it better to make it a stipend to the Lady Yester's Kirk, or to a minister for all the prisoners, to preach at Cannogat and Edinburgh tolbuiths, and the Correction-house, Sunday about."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i., pp. 324, 325.

"20th *Julij*, 1685.—The Bischop of Edinburgh procures a letter from the King to the Toune of Edinburgh, requiring them to take 20,000 merks of the bygane annuall rents of Muidie's mortification in ther hands, and therwith build a lodgeing and chappell to the said Bischop . . . This being represented to his Majesty as ane inversion of Muidie's pious donation; yet the Bischop's freinds prevailed so far as to procure a new order from the King, that till the house ware built, they should pay him the annuell of that summe yeirly, viz. 1200 merks, which will doe more than pay 2 house mailles."—*Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 656.

XL.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 26th August, 82.

Saturday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—His Majestie having been pleased to call a Scotts Councill at Windsor Castle, upon Thursday last at night, to hear and consider the Report made by the Commissioners lately appointed for the tryall and examination of the state of the Mint, the result therof will appear in the inclosed, from his Majestie to your Lordship, with this true copie of the Journall of that meeting: At which my Lord Secretary was not, in regarde of his not having been out of doores since his Ladie's death; nor is to be untill her corpse shal be putt on board the yaucht that is to carry her to Morray; which I hope will be about 3 dayes hence.

At my coming through Kensington, in my way last night from Windsor, I received the (to me) sadde news of the Duke of Lauderdale's having last Thursday, about halfe of an hour past 8 at night, departed this life at his lodgeing near Tunbridge-wells; where his corpse wil be embalmed this night or to-morrow, and from thence wil be carried next day to Ham, in order to its transportation to Scotland, so soon as his friends shall think fitt to order it.

The King and Duke will goe next Thursday to Winchester to see some horse races, where they will stay tuo nights, and will from thence returne to Windsor.

The confusion in which I am at present for the losse of an old kind master, and the want of matter, is the reason of your having no further trouble at this time from,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

XLI.—From WILLIAM, MARQUIS of QUEENSBERRY.

Sanqr. 28th Agust, 1682.

My Lord,—In returne to your Lordship's of 22nd, I had given you this trouble with Gordistounne, but that I had not then answered E. Pearth's letters, which now I send your Lordship inclosed.

All heir continow very peaceable, as Cleveres will give your Lordship account; and since hee'l informe your Lordship so fullie in evrey thing relaiting to Galloway and this countrey, I need not repeate.

I forgotte att pairting to speake to your Lordship anent the current tacke of the customes, which I would have your Lordship considder with the King's Advocate, and advise if we can bee free of it att Martimesse; in which caice I think a bargane more advantagious may be meade for the King, if your Lordship judge fitte to trouble your selfe in this affaire. The tacke may be gotte from Moncreife: but it's not fitt the Advocate or any els know your designe in it, or what passes betuixt you and me upon the subject.

If your Lordship have any comands for me, Hew Wallace will gett thaim safe and speedily conveyed; and I expect yee'l acquaint me what's doone in Councill, and how I shall gett letters conveyed to your Lordship dureing your absence from Edr., in caice any thing occurre heir worth your trouble.

It's impossible for me, without ruining my private affaires, to be from this till the middle of November; and I sie no great necessitie for randevvoueing the militia this year. Besyds, the harvest will make it very inconvenient; but if your Lordship judge otherwayes,

why not? Only I desyre this Sheyre be among the last, that they may be in better order. I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble Servant,
QUEENSBERRY.

I finde severalls of opinion the commons of the Western Sheyres are too weell provided of armes, which I judged my dentie to signifie to your Lordship; and if you please, doe desyre to know the effect of Sir Wm. Binnies discoverie.¹

For my Lord High Chanceler of Scotland.

XLII.—From JAMES, EARL of PERTH.

London, 29th Aug, 82.

My Lord,—Evrie post brings you all I can say. This affoords litle. D. H. stands fair for D. Lauds. blue ribbon.² The D. is contriving hou to do some kindness to Lt. Gen.: but it is not by any endeavor of mine; for I have movd for nobody nor uil not.

¹ Sir William Binny, Provost of Edinburgh, along with one Robert Milne and certain others, were tacksmen of the excise upon ale within the shires of Mid and East Lothian, and the town of Edinburgh. In August, 1682, they were prosecuted before the Privy Council, at the instance of sundry brewers in Edinburgh, for oppression in levying the tax, and for having procured their lease by bribing Lord Halton. The Privy Council found them guilty of having attempted to bribe the Treasurer Depute by the offer of 14,000 merks; and they were therefore sentenced to pay, as a fine, "the forsaid soumme of 14,000 merks Scots, designed by them as a bribe to be given to Halton. And in regard the saids Sir William Binnie and Robert Milne's parts, by the probation, appeared to be hellish and foull, and they prevaricated in their depositions," &c., Binny was sentenced to pay individually a fine of 9000 merks, and Milne a fine of 3000 merks.—Fountainhall's *Historical Notices*, vol. i., pp. 367—372.

² "His place as being a knight of the most honorable Order of the Garter was given to his mortall ennemy the Duke of Hamilton, which speaks the wain inconstency of all fluid things;—How it would fret Lauderdale if he could lift up his head and see Hamilton succeed him in that stall, whom he had persuaded the King to be a disloyall and factious man!"—Fountainhall's *Historical Observes*, p. 76.

My Lord Regr. is very much your Lordship's friend here, and really has carryed to admiration in all the things entrusted to him. The Chancellor is gone to the bath long ago, and I hear mends not; so it is thought he may drop off. The K. has been spoke to about Argyle's affaires, and is very stiff. We hope to hear very soon from your Lordship what is to be done more by us here, that wee may get home.

I wish your Lordship uell and soon back from the north.

The K. and D. go on Thursday to Winchester to horse races, and return on Saturday. Next they go to Chattam to see the Brittainia, and imediatly after that to Neumarket; so here uil be a solitary place.

Your Lordship's favor is a great blessing to me; continou it, and I hope I shal not disapoint your expectations of my service.

Ld. Ch^{lr}.

XLIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE.

My Lord,—The E. of Seaforth resolv's to depend entirly upon yow, and by yow to mak his aplication to the Duk. Remember his influence in the Highlands, Argyl being forfeited, Huntly being incapacitated, and Athole not well pleas'd, as som say,¹ tho I hope otherwyse; remember also the sufferings of his familie, and how these maintaind the King's army alon, both under Montrose, and alwyse under the English usurpation. If your Lordship has any publict bussinesse, I will attend you early on Wedsenday. Burn this I entreat yow.¹

¹ The elevation of Sir George Gordon to the office of Lord Chancellor is represented as having given offence to the Marquis of Athole, who himself had an eye to that dignity. Sir John Lauder says:—"The Marquis of Athol met with a great disappointment, for he thought himself secure of this office, and wanted not ground, having officiat as Chanceler in the last Parliament."—*Historical Observes*, p. 69.

² This Letter is without a date. It was evidently written somewhat before the date at which it is here introduced See p. 56.

XLIV.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE.

I writt evry post because you desyred it; tho I have nothing to add to my last, but that the E. of P[erth] and I were just now with the E. of Murray, desyring to have Lundie's, Lt. Generall Drumd's Comissions; Perth, Lundie, and his Letters of pensiones or fees, by the D.'s comand, to be ready again his return hither. That of the Bayliries I wait a draught of them from your Lordship.

Severall of the malcontents doe address quietly to the D., particularly Shafts. This day will give great insight to that of the Shirrefs: wee hope to the better. Adieu.

Col. Dowglas goes for Holland to morrow. The Queen is heer. The Ds. mends every day; her daughter is a very pretty strong child.

31. Ag., 1682.

For my Lord High Chanceler of Scotland.

XLV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Kinsingtone, Sep^{ber}. 2nd, 1682.

My Lord,—Sins my sad loss, I haue wrytin to no persone saue ons by a borroued hand to Mr. Thomas Gordon, so that your Lordship will excuse my silence, my present circumstanse considerd. I haue not yit bene any whar abroad. My dear wyffs corps ar to be caeried to-morow's night to the yaucht, which goes with them to Morray. Monday morning, I shall uaet on the Dwk.

All I haue now to tell you is, that yisterday the E. Pearthe, Ld. Register, and Lindy, caem to tell me that his R. Highnes appointed me to draw a Commision for Lundie to be Tressurer Deput; E. Pearthe Exterordinary Lord of the Sessione, uithe ane additionall pensione in place of the late D. Ldll; Lt. Gennerall Drummond to

be Master Gennerall of the Ordinance, and Keeper of the Magazine, uithe 150 lib. of fie, and as mutch of pensione; A pensione of 200 lib. to E. Seaforth; and tuo Letters, on to the Sessione, and another to the Tressure, to be recorded in the books of bothe judicatorys, declaringe the Register's commisione to be as full as any ever injoied it; becaus he says before it uas too generall. Of all this, I advysed ane account to be giuen you by last post, from ane other hand, which I believe uas done with some other particulars. After I haue seen the Dwk, I shall say mor by next post, and I am unalterably,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

XLVI.—From SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE.

Edr., 9th Sept^r.

My dear Lord,—All is quiet here. And wee did meet on Thursday last, vher wee did intimat to Sir Alex^r. Gibson that wee could not tak his tennents off his hands except he did first secur as much as might pay their fynes.¹ Som in Galloway having bought the forfeited rebells' estats, and sufferd them to remain in possession, I hav raisd sumonds against them, as connivers with rebells. And I have causd retour the quinquenniall possession as the King's,

¹ It was provided by the "Act for securing the peace of the Countrie," (29th August 1681,) that in the case of tenants convicted and fined for Field Conventicles, or for resetting preachers who had been intercommuned or declared fugitives, that it should be lawful to landlords "to put their tenents out of their lands, or out of their houses possessed by them at any time of the year, and that without any warning or proces of removing, and that notwithstanding of any tacks set to the tenents for years or termes to run, which in this caice are hereby declared to be void and null: And the masters and heretors are hereby authorised and allowed to retain as much of the goods and gear belonging to the saids tenents, cottars, and servants as may satisfie and pay the last year's rent due by the tenents, and releive them of the saids fines."—Acts of the Parliament of Scotland, vol. viii., p. 242.

conform to the Act of Parlt., notwithstanding of a long information that Sir G. Lockhart has drawn to the contrarie, which was sent to the Tresurer.

I hav considered the lists of the prisoners sent in by the officers of the armie, and has entreated Generall Dalyell to hav the probation against each of them ready befor the first of Nov^r. that the rebells may be punisht, and wee not complained upon. He is very well pleasd now with us all.

Som say that Major Vhyts being put in the Castle will slaken the disciplin of the armie.¹

XLVII.—From GEORGE, EARL of LINLITHGOW.²

Edinr., 10th Sepr., 82.

May it pleais your Lordship,—Ackording to your commands sum of thos Lords apointed to meit did meit vpon Thursday last, bot vee had litell to doe, and I houp shall not. If thair had anething accured vourthie of your Lordship's cognisance, I should not haue fealed to haue acquaintit you thairvith. Vee haue apointed to meit ageain vpon Thursday nixt.

Since your Lordship's going from this I haue not heard from Gl. Dalyell, bot all is verry quiet euerry vhair. If anething of consernment cum to my knouledg, your Lordship shall be acquainted thairuith immediatly. Houeuer, I shall not goe from this vntill your return, or that I resseaeue your Lordship's commands for it, as the deutie of him quho is,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and faithfull Seruant,

LINLITHGOW.

¹ "Major White got Lundie's place as Governor Depute of the Castle of Edinburgh."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 77.

² He was Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards. This command he resigned in 1681, on being appointed Lord Justice General of Scotland.

XLVIII.—From JAMES, EARL of PERTH.

Lond., 16th Sept., 82.

My Lord,—Since my last nothing has occur'd worthy your trouble to read it. The K. and D. went doune to Chattham to see the noblest squadron of ships in Europe, and their neu admirall, The Brittania. The Duke wuld needs have me uith him. The Sherrif's election who is to be instead of Mr. Box, (who has fin'd and gone off,) is to be on Teusday. They talk as if Sir Ja. Eduards and Sir Wm. Turner were lyke to leave us and go over to the Whiggs, but I hope it is not true.

I am nou just upon parting, only I must stay to have the Duke's commands nixt week, and then I uil heast home to gett a week or tuo at least in the countrie before wee be at Edr. I uish I could be more significant to your service, for more uilling to serve your Lordship or more sincere I can never be. If your Lordship uil allow me to present my humble service to my Lady, it wil much oblige,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble obedient Servant,

PERTH.

XLIX.—From Sir JOHN COCHRANE of OCHILTREE.

Right Honorable my Lord,—Sir George Campbell of Cesnock and I have made a bargain for two Counties with the Lords proprietors of Carolina, for our oune, and the use of such as shall undertake with us to plant their. Wee are oblidged to take up threttie six thousand aickers of land yearly for the space of eight years; and this proportion of land being taken up, wee have right to als much more upon the same terms.

In the manadgment of this affaيرة at London, wee did acquaint

his Majestie and his Royall Highnes with the whol methods and steps of it. His Majestie hath been grationslie pleased to signifie to your Lordship, and the rest of the Lords of his Counsel heir, his approbation of the designe, which Letter I forbear to present untill your Lordship come hither.¹

So soon as I came into this countrie, I went to my Lord Advocat, he being the only Minister of State upon the place, and acquainted him with what wee had done, and what wee were about to doe in prosecution of our designe. Accordingly when the Committee of the Counsel mett heir on Thursday last, I did acquaint their Lordships with the reson of our undertakers meeting heir.

I shall not trouble your Lordship at present to give yow a speciall accompt of the methods and wayes agreed upon to prosecute our designe: only to acquaint your Lordship that wee have appointed a vessel to goe from Greenock the first of October next; with whom wee send foure pilots and two gentlemen, to sound the best river in Carolina, and to take possession of the best land upon it for us, and so soon as is possible to return unto us; to the end that these pilots wee send may be able to guyde our ships into that river they make choice of. This is the substance of what wee have yet agreed on.

¹ "Towards the end of the year, the King signified to the Council that Sir John Cochran of Ochiltree, and Sir George Campbell, had come up from several of his subjects in Scotland as commissioners, to deal with him anent a settlement in Carolina; and recommends to the Council to encourage them therein: so that whatever meetings might fall in afterwards under this covert, yet such a design was at first really projected, however some English writers ridicule it.

"Since writing what is above, the Honourable Mr. William Carmichael, brother to the Earl of Hyndford, has done me the favour to send me the original bond among the noblemen and gentlemen, as to their settlement at Carolina, bearing in the body of it a contract betwixt Sir John Cochran and Sir George Campbell, and the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, for a county consisting of two square plots, each of which consisted of twelve thousand acres, at a penny per acre quit rent, with clauses needless to be here resumed . . . The subscribers are about thirty six: Callander, Cardross, Haddington, Yester, P. Hume of Polwart, Archibald Cockburn, Archibald Douglas, George Lockhart, Alexander Gilmour," &c.—Wodrow's History, vol. iii., pp. 368, 369. Burnet's History of his own Time, vol. ii., pp. 321, 322. [ed. 1823.]

Wee have agreed that their shall be seventie two principall undertakers, a list quhairof I have sent your Lordship heir enclosed. Wee have power to choose on Landgrave, and tuo Cassicks for each Countie. Sir George Lockhart is to be Landgrave of the first Countie.

I have reserved foure undertakers' places for your Lordship, and such of the Lords of the Session as inclyne to come into the undertaking. If their be anything in the bargain that your Lordship thinks may tempt you to come into it, the Societie will make yow very welcome; and I shall attend your Lordship upon your first coming hither, and give yow a scene of the wholl affaire.

I will only in generall say, that if this undertaking be actuallie prosecuted, it will tend very much to the honor and advantage of the nation in generall, and be as great ease into the Government. I beg your Lordship's pardon for this trouble. I am

Your Lordship's most humble Servant,

Jo. COCHRANE.

Edr. Sep^r. 16th, 1682.

L.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Edinburgh, 21st Sep^r., 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—The inclosed tuo letters are but just now come to my hand.

This dayes News Leter is stuft full of the matter of a new ellectione of Shreiffs, which wes to have been one Tuesday last; and our phanaticks heir expect great news by the nixt of it. The King is not to sture from Whythall vntill Michaelmis day be past, and the ellectione of the Mayor and Eldermen of the City be over.

The Committie for publict affaires meitt this fornoon. Ane ac-

count of there proceedings shall be sent to your Lordship by the
nixt post, from,

May it please your Lordship,

Your most faithfull and most obleidged humble Servant,

WILL. PATERSON.

Monmouth is now farder out than ever, and is playeing his old
game of makeing his muster in the severall countys in the west of
Ingland; bot attendit and carresst only by the rable for the most
part.

My leg is still so ill, that I am forced to writ this to your
Lordship by a borrowed hand.

LI.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 21st Sepr.

Thursday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—The inclosed printed occurrences
of this day, giving an account of what was yesterday in Councell
done by his Majestie, in reference to the uredched old Shireffs, upon
their misbehaviour after the late election of Mr. Rich to succeed
to Mr. Box,—I should hardly at this time have given your Lordship
any trouble of this nature, were it not to acquaint you that, last
night, the Earle of Midleton kissed the King's hand, upon his
preferment to be conjunct Secretary of State for the kingdome of
Scotland with the Earle of Morray;¹ nor doe I doubt but they will
agree together, being well satisfied one with another.

By this post the Commission is sent downe for my Lord

¹ "His [the Earl of Lauderdale's] Secretarie's place, he had installed the Earl of
Murray in it about two years ere he dyed, but all that while he had reserved the £1000
sterling pension annexed theirto; and instantly on his death the Earl of Middleton (whom
Lauderdale had keepped out all this tyme) was added by the King as his conjunct Secretary
for Scotland."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 76.

Treasurer to be Constable and Governour of the Castle of Edinburgh, with another for his Lordship to be Captain of the company in Garrison there; as also a Commission for Major White to be the King's Lieutenant Governour of the Castle, and another for him to be Lieutenant of the said company. I am, with continued duty,

My noble Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

LII.—FROM JAMES, EARL OF PERTH.

L., 21st Sept., '82.

My Lord,—Last night E. Midleton kisst the K's. hand, as conjunct Secretary. E. Morray is to have 2400 lib. free out of the whole, which I fancy uil leave litle to Midleton. E. Sunderland is againe in the Councill; he has gott 13,000 lib. out of Irland, payable in three years.

The Sherriff uas choos'd on Teusday, according as uue uisht, but the Whiggs still keep up a bustle. This is all the neus I knou.

On that day the K. goes to Neumarket uue come off for Scotland. I fancy your Lordship uil be at Edr. about the midle of Octr.; if so, uue may be slou enough upon the road to uait upon your Lordship before I go home. If not, I could uish (tho I dare not envite you) that Sterling bridge uere in your uay. I uold to God I kneu hou to express hou much I find my self oblidged to your Lordship: I am very sensible of it, and you shall ever find me,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
PERTH.

LIII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 23rd Sepr, 1682.

Saterday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—To my last I have nothing of busines to adde, but that the Earle of Midleton's patent to be conjunct Secretary of State with the Earle of Morray uil be sent down by the next post to passe the Great Seale; imediatly after the returne of which he will begin to act in the office; and I am still more and more confident that their Lordships will agree very well.

One of the King's Serjeants at Armes having been privately sent down into the country about a week agoe, with a warrant to bring hither the Duke of Monmouth in his custody, upon an information which his Majestie had of his Grace's goeing up and downe the country in a ryotus maner, tending to the disquiet of the leidges, and the disturbance of the Government: he was accordingly taken into custody last Wensday in the Toune of Stafford, and was brought hither this afternoone; where one of the Secretaries of State spoak with him severall times; whilst the King (who would not see him) and the chiefe Lords of the Councell were considering what was fitt to be done with him. The result whereof was, that he having already procured a writt of Habeas Corpus against the first warrant, ther was a new one made for his committment to the same Serjeant at Armes his house, untill he shall give security for keeping the peace, and bayle for his appearance the first day of the next terme at the King's Bench barre, then and there to answer to such matters as wil be given in charge against him. So he stands at present thus committed; but it is beleived he wil be at liberty in few dayes, upon his giving such security and bayle as are demanded from him; which is not doubted but his adherents wil be carefull to give with all possible

expedition, notwithstanding that it is generally beleived he is to be accused of high crimes.

The only forreigne news that wee have this night is a report which comes by the way of Bruxelles, of the Imperialists having given a considerable defeat to the rebells in Hungary, albeit with a great losse of men even on the Emperor's side; but as yet wee have not an account of the particulars; which, when come, you may expect from,

My noble Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

LIV.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

Edbr., 23rd Septr., 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—I had a verie kynd letter from the Duke to myself, with this enclosd to your Lordship, wherein, I presume, are contained some things relating to myself.

The most bigott phan's. in this towne are now frequenting the Church, who for twenty past years haue not been in their parish churches. D. Hamilton is now here, and tells me that there is not so much as a house conventicle heard of in the west of Scotland; and assures me he will act heartilie in the Government with your Lordship for suppressing phanaticism and rebellion.

He, with his Duchesse, the M. Athole, the E. Haddington,¹ and L. Carmichael,² the Duchesse of Rothesse³ and her daughter, the Countesse of Rothesse,⁴ are all here, in order to the concluding

¹ Charles, fifth Earl of Haddington. He was married to the eldest daughter of John, Duke of Rothes; upon whose death, in 1681, she succeeded as Countess of Rothes.

² John, second Lord Carmichael, afterwards Earl of Hyndford.

³ The Lady Anne Lindsay, widow of John Duke of Rothes, and eldest daughter of John, Earl of Crawford and Lindsay.

⁴ Wife of the Earl of Haddington.

and adjusting the articles of the match intended twixt L. Morray and L. Katherin Hamilton.¹

It's said by good advice how that the Lord Staire is gone abroad of the kingdom ; your Lordship may guesse the reason.

The L. Advocat, I am informed, said to Sir Jon Maitland, that the E. Middleton is made conjunct Secretare with E. Murray ; and that E. Perth hath written so from Court. I cannot beleeeue this, and sould be exceedingly sorrie if it sould prove true. I long to speak with your Lordship upon that subject.

L. Tarbett moved mightilie for Colinton² to be Thesaurer Deput, and desired me to recomend him to the King. I said I wold give him a good character to the King verie willinglie, but would not recommend him to anie such office without your Lordship's knowledge and allowance. He wold also haue had his new sone-in-law a Lord of Session, but neither the one nor the other is done.

The Countesse of Erroll came hither yesternight verie wele.

Wee are anxious till wee hear by to morrow's post how the matter wes carried, on Tuesday last, at the election of the new Shirref of Middlesex, tho I see no cause to fear, but that all things wil be wele and peaceable carried through : some bustle of tongue and talk may be. God blesse and preserve the King and Duke. I am,

May it please your Lordship,

Your Lordship's most humble and most faithfull Servand,

JO. EDINBURGEN.

I haue a Precept for your Lordship, in order to your last half year's pension as President of the Session, which I sall keep till I see your Lordship, or transmitt to you now, as you sall order me.

¹ Eldest daughter of Anne, Duchess of Hamilton, and Lord William Douglas, afterwards Duke of Hamilton.

² Sir James Foulis of Colinton : nominated an Ordinary Lord of Session, February, 1661 ; a Lord of Justiciary, February, 1671 ; afterwards Lord Justice Clerk, February, 1684. Sir James married the mother of Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbet, widow of Sir John Mackenzie of Tarbet, who died in 1654.

LV.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

My Deare Lord,—L. Thesaurer hath written to E. Murray, that he proposeth as a fond for the payment of his 3000 lib., the ensuing improvements of the King's revenue, and the excrescence of the excise in the towne of Edinbr., now to be discovered and broght into the King's thesaurie. The Earle thinks this not ane sure nor effectuell fond. And since he cannot haue that money payd him presentlie, he thinks that the casualities, such as Wards, &c., being appointed a fond, out of the first wherof he may be payed, will be ane effectuell way and method for his payment: the other, he fears, may prove utterlie elusorie. It is fitt a true solid vnderstanding be kept twixt my L. High Thesaurer and my L. Secretarie; and I must beseech your Lordship, who desires it may be so, that you wold interpose with my Lord Thesaurer to write to E. Murray, and to propose his payment out of the casualities, the first and readiest of them. I assure your Lordship, as his credit depends much on a sure fond for payment of it, so he depends as much on your Lordship's friendship in it.

The Provost of Edbr. writes to me, that the 200 lib. pension formerlie payed to the Provost is now taken away; and wonders what disservice he hath done in his tyme to the King or Duke, why it should be taken from him during his service. I spoke to his R. H. about it, and he is straitned in it; and tells he hopes the Towne of Edbr. needs it not, but may support the charge of their owne Provost; and speaks of the manner how, and to whom that pension was first gott: all which is true. But your Lordship wold consider if, in the present circumstances, it be fitt to take it away, least it disoblidge the present Magistrats, and discourage them and others in their zeale for the K's. service; and if at least it be not adviseable to continue it, at least for this current year; and the

next year, when Provost Fleeming retires, at his going off, that year's pension may be cutt off, and so never again granted.

If your Lordship think it fitt to desire the Duke to move the King to write a letter to the Privie Council, signifying his desire and R. pleasure, that (since, by Act of Parl., the applying Moodie's mortification for building a church is referred to their Lordships) that they may appoint a sune, out of the anuall rents of the sune mortified not exceeding ane 1000 lib. sterl., for building or buying of ane house to the Bp. of Edbr. and his successors for ever. The L. Register will give your Lordship the Act or Reference of Parliament if you please to call for it.

For your Lordship's self alone :—These.

LVI.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

23rd Sept.

May it please your Lordship,—Tho I hawe nothing to say, but to direct the inclosed to your Lordship, yit I resolve to omitt no post. Our people heir ar in expectation of great neus the morrou annent the Shiriffs: God grant they may be good.

The Committie of Councill has thocht fitt to call a quorum of Councill against Thursday nixt, to punish the last outrage and riot committed at the Woolmitt, lest the people should think that so great and insolent ane affront ver forgott; and therfor they resolve to censure it quhill it is recent.¹

I confesse I hawe gott the staiks to keip, and it's my mis-

¹ " 28th and 29th *Septembris*, 1682.—At Privy Counsell, Hew Wallace, brother to the late Justice-Clerk Craigie, who had prevailed with Major Biggar to give a disposition of the lands and coall of Wolmet to the said Hew's sone, he taking on the name and armes of Biggar, he persuaes before the Privy Counsell a ryot or violence committed by some at Wolmet, when he was going to take possession of the said estate, conforme to his disposition and infeftment. The Lords imprisoned some of them, and ordained them to be scourged." —Fountainhall's *Historical Notices*, vol. i. p. 374.

fortun. I vant your Lordship heir at this tyme to see me get some redress; and therfor I must begg your Lordship vill doe me honour to vrit to anie heir you please, (to my L. Privie Seall, who it's lyk vil proceed,) or to anie els of the Councill, to see courss taken in it. I hawe allvayes depended, and resolves to depend on your Lordship, and to be euer, with all sinceritie,

May it please your Lordship,
Your most faithfull and oblidged Servant,

WILL. PATERSON.

Ther is on Mr. William Dundass who will be found the cheif agent and hounder out in all this ryot. This Dundass is ane advocat who has refused the Test.

The D. of Hamilton and Atholl ar in Toun, concluding the marriage tuixt the Marquiss's son and the Duke's daughter.

LVII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE.

My Lord,—The Committie thought it necessary to call a Councell for maintaining authoritie and punishing that grosse Ryot, becaus it is so much talkt of, else wee had been unwilling to hav any.

All is quiet, and I had letters this day from Mr. Malcolm, telling that the Magistrats of their little touns obstruct much the punishing of fanatiks, and therfor hee is to pursue them for collusion.¹

¹ "This year Mr. Alexander Malcolm, Sheriff-Depute of Fife, put in by the Earl of Balcarras, when the sheriffship was lodged in his hands, upon my Lady Rothes and the Earl of Haddington their refusing the post, rigorously pressed conformity; and there was no escaping sore oppression without taking the test."—Wodrow's History, vol. iii., p. 390. [ed. 1830.]

"18 *Januarij*, 1683.—The Earle of Balcarhous, now Shiref-Principall of Fyffe, and Mr. Alexander Malcolme, Advocat, his Depute, gave in a complaint [to the Privy Council] against John Williamson, Provost of Kirkaldy, and the Bailzies ther, for opposing the Shireff to execute the poenall laws against Conventiculars, and withdrawers from the Church, dwelling within that toun, upon the late Act of Parliament, 1681, giving a cumulative jurisdiction," &c.—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i., p. 397.

The Register has done yow great service and with great kyndnesse; and hee and I and Clavrose did this night remember yow very kyndly: I hop yow will deserv it at our hands.

Duk Hamilton, and his Duchesse, and M. Athole, ar cum to Toune to solemniz the mariag in the eyes of the people.²

It is lyk that ther will be a tumult about the election of a new Shirriff, but the King is prepar'd for it; for hee has 8000 men in Toun, and the Navy in the mouth of the river

I tak pains to influence elections evry wher, and to hector such as speak ill of you.

I find the Carolina project encourages much our fanaticks, thinking they ar now secur of a retreat.

LVIII.—FROM JAMES, EARL OF PERTH.

Lond., 24th Sept., '82.

My Lord,—I hope to send your Lordship by Thursday's post an impression of one (that is the whole Arms) syde of your Seal. It uil be uell done.

These tuo days I have been laboring with Trumble, the coach-maker, for a handsome Coach for your Lordship. My opinion is it should be made uith boots, as the Lord Chancellor of England's is, lyn'd uith crimson velvet, varnisht with Japan varnish, the carvd corners and molds gilded; the coat of arms on the back, a large cypher before, and either the chrest or a cypher upon the two syde panalls on each syde: uich is one coat of arms, and five cyphers; and two fyne street harness's, and four ordinary ones. This is uhat I think your Lordship cannot uell uant, and uhat may be so ordered as not to be too dear; but uee shal make our

² The marriage referred to was that of the Marquis of Athole's son, John, afterwards first Duke of Athole, with Lady Catherine, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton.—Douglas's Peerage of Scotland, vol. i., pp. 150, 703.

bargain so as to knou the louest of a boot coach, and the louest of one uith doors, and leave uorking any thing until your order come. Only it may be in such readyness to begin to, that, in ten or twelve days hinc, it may be finished if the order arrives. Excuse this truble, uhich I uold not give your Lordship but for your oun service.

This day's neus you uil have from a better hand, concerning D. Monmouth's being brought up by a Messenger at Arms; his having got out his Habeas Corpus befor Justice Raymond; and his committment aneu, until he should find bail for keeping the peace, for good behavior, and for ansuering nixt term to uhat is to be brought in against him. They once thought the Serjent uold have uaited upon him at his (the D. of Monmouth's) house; but I hear he is carry'd to the Serjent's for this night.

The talk is, that the Imperiallists have beat the Rebels of Hungary. This is all at present. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient faithful Servant,

PERTH

LIX.—From KENNETH, EARL of SEAFORTH

My Lord,—How soon I hade notice of your North coming, I came from home, expecting to hav ortakne your Lordship in the Bog; but at my coming to this place I uas informed of your return to your own house, vher I voud vait on your Lordship, ver it not I'm afreied I shoud but detain you from your affairs. And since all I coud doe is to offer my service to your Lordship, I intreat by thes that, if in any capacity I cane be of use to your Lordship, you may comand me; for I assur you thers not a relation you hav longs mor for ane occasion to serv you then I doe.

My Lord, ever since my North coming, I hav made it my bussinease

to inquer if any of thos disaffected ministers you spok of to me at Edbr., did resort to the Shyr I'm concerned in; but found no such disorderly pople in it; altho we suffer so much by the Lochaber men, that if the King and Councell tak not ane effectuall course presently, many of us in that place vill not hav so much of our oun as vill pay the publick dues. Yet in this, as in every thing else, I doe my indeavour to serv the King, by depressing all disorders; but to resist a whol country of robbers is not in my pouer without the King's authority; especialy if they continue as they are, at present, dayly vasting my land: so that in a short time, if not prevented, they'l put me from being in a capacity to doe the King any service; which I leav to your Lordship's consideration: ther being non more then I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble Servant,

SEAFORT.

Elgin, Septr. 25th, 1682.

LX.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE.

My Lord,—Just now I receaved a lyne from the E. of Perth, telling that the E. of Midlton is joined conjunct Secretare with the E. of Murray; but only the Signett and the Secretare's fees are equally divided; the 1000 lib. of pension is altogether Murraye's. I had not a word more by this post.

All interests concurr to place your Lordship and Midlt. in entire freendship; and if any thing I can doe may further it, I will doe in it as for,

My Lord,

Your most faithfull Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

Edr., 26th Septr., 1682.

For the Lord High Chancelor of Scotland.

LXI.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.

London, Sep. 26th, 1682.

My Lord,—I most thankfully acknowledge the honnour of your Lordship's letter, which I receavd last night. I must acquaint you too, that his Majestie has been pleasd to make me conjunct Secretary with my Lord Morry, which I shall always gratefully own to the good offices your Lordship has been pleasd to doe me with his R. Hs., and which I shall endeavour to deserve by the faithfullst services that I can pay. I shall not trouble you now with telling you upon what terms I have it, since they are fully specifyd in my Commission, which is to be sent down by this post to pass the Great Seal. If it cannot passe without your order, I hope you'll be pleasd to give it to that purpose; and if you thinke that in forme the King's order to my Lord Morry is not sufficient for him to give me the Test, that a coram of the Councill may be appointed to meet, to impowr him to doe it.

The Duke of Monmouth is at liberty, upon his giving in baile to keep the peace, and to answer to the riott. The Court goes to Newmarkett Monday nixt, unlesse something should happen on Michellmasse day to hinder it. Ther is no other news, so that I shall conclude without giving your Lordship the unnecessary trouble of a compliment from,

My Lord,

Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

LXII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Sep^{ber}. 26th, 1682.

My Lord,—Hitherto I orderd Sir Andrew Forrester to uryt you full accounts of all that pasis hear, which I houp he hathe done.

You haue befor now heard of the Dk. of Munmothe's beinge sent for by one of the King's messingers. He was examined by Mr. Secretary Jenkins, and brought befor the Councill severall tymes, and now hes found baell to anssuer befor the King's Bench next tearme, which begins the 23rd of October.

The E. Middleton is now conjuncte Secretary uithe me. I heartily acquiess in his Majesty's pleasure, and what is fitt for his and the Duk's service; and whatever statione I am in, you shall aluays find me most sincerely,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

LXIII.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

27th Sepr.

May it please your Lordship,—I haue nothing more from this place to trouble vith but the inclosed. By them, if not before, your Lordship will find that E. of Midltonn kissed his Majestie's hand, for being conjunct Secretarie of Stait vith the E. of Murray, the 20th instant. This neus ves no secret heir after the Register's arivall.

Duke Hamilton, Atholl, and ther friends ar still in Toune annent the mariage. And it's believed that my L. Stairs has retired to Holland.

The Councill should meit to morrou, to vitness ther indignation against the authors of that ryot at Woolmit; tho I should haue wished, for my owen sake, that affair had bein continued till your Lordship had bein heir. Quhat the Councill does to morrou (if they meit) your Lordship shall haue a full accompt off.¹

¹ See above p. 67

The Bishop of Edinbrugh is at St. Andrews, and therfor your Lordship has nothing from him this post. The London Gazett will give you a full and treu accompt of the affair annent the Shirriffs of London, quhich, God be praised, is hapily caried for the King's interest. Sunderland is readmitted a Privie Coun-celler. This, with my most humble obedience to your Lordship, is all at present from,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and oblidged Servant,

W. PATERSON.

For the Right Honourable,

The Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

LXIV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 28th Septembr., '82.

Thursday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Notwithstanding of the great noise and threatenings for a good while made by the phanaticks, Mr. North and Mr. Rich were, this forenoone, by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, sworne to be Shireffs for the year ensueing both of London and Midlesex, without any further opposition than that of Dubois and Papilion having offered themselves to be sworne; but they were rejected with contempt: and the first was told by the Lord Mayor, that if he would not gett him gone, (as the phrase is in this country,) he would cause him to be layd by the heeles.

All the Guards, both horse and foot, were in their quarters ready to have marched, if their had been any occasion for their having been called to the assistance of the City Militia, for preserving the peace, in case the rabble's courage had been equall to their clamour; but indeed they have showd but very litle of forwardnes in the cause at this time. However, the Guards wil be

in the same readines to morrow, lest some attempt of disorder may be made then at the election of the new Lord Mayor, and at the entry of the new Shireffs upon the exercise of their offices.

The Duke of Monmouth is now at liberty, upon his having given such security and bayle as were mentioned in the last letter which your Lordship had from,

My noble Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,
A. FORRESTER.

I pray your Lordship to excuse my great haste, which has occasioned the blotts of this letter.

LXV.—From JAMES, EARL of PERTH.

Lond., 28th Sept. '82.

My Lord,—Hereuith your Lordship uil receave one syde of your Seal's impression. It is uell cutt, and conform to the direction : only the scroll for the motto above uas of necessity to be changed as to its situation, but in my opinion it is to the better.

Uee go auay on Monday nixt. I hope uee shall meet your Lordship at Edr. Your Lordship's of the 15th shous me that E. Erroll had naited upon you. I do, once for all, assure your Lordship that I, and all I can influence, shall ever so behave themselves to your Lordship, as may express the great sense I have of your Lordship's worth and my obligatious to you.

This day North and Rich were suorn, and Pilkinton delivered up his staff very willingly to North ; but Shute was so drunk he could not be there. Dubois offered to swear as Sheriff, but my Lord Mayor told him he had nothing to do there. Papilion did

not offer. This is all the news; and now being upon wing to be gone, I hope your Lordship will excuse so short a letter from,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble Servant,

PERTH.

LXVI.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

My Lord,—Four of the Lords having this day mett, they were urged by my Lord Advocat for the King's interest, and for the effectually and speedy payment of the few duties, which are very considerable, and by some others of the creditors of the estate of Argyl, to exped that commission of Chamberlainrie to John M'Klachland and John M'Knachton, upon the caution offered by them when your Lordship was present heer. And albeit we be of opinion that it were very fitt that their wer Chamberlains appoynted in such tyme, as that the coues (which is the principle subject out which the rent is payed) might be sold befor the marquets goe over; yit when we have considered the process, and that by the Commission the nominating of the Chamberlains, and considering of the sufficiency of the cautioners is only referred to your Lordship: We think that it is only competent to your Lordship to order the Trusties to grant the commission to the saids Chamberlains, or any other that you think fitt, and that the said warrant can be granted be non else untill the Commission meet again, which will be the first of November.

This accompt the Lords Collingtoun, Castlehill, and Salin¹ having this day mett, appoynted to be transmitted to your Lordship by,

My Lord,

Your most humble Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

Edr., 28th Sepr., 1682.

¹ Sir Andrew Birnie of Saline: Appointed a Lord of Session, November, 1679.

LXVII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

Tuesday's post brought the news of Midlts. beeing conjoined Secretare sooner then any did exspect: this daye's chat of the D. of Monmuth beeng secured in a serjeant's hand, and in a second's after a Habeas Corpus had taken him from the first, till he find bail to appear next terme.

Argyle's rent will be much lost by want of Chamberlans in tyme; but till your Lordship, to whom it's referd by the Comission, doe give the commission, none here can. And the want of judicatoris and overseers there may prove unfitt; and as unfitt to putt any kind of imployment in Lord H.'s hand. The Commissioners who were heer commanded me to writt the other letter to your Lordship.

It's said the Emperor hath defeat the rebels in Hungary egregiously.

I wish your Lordship all health, happines, and a safe and speedy return hither.

28. 7^{bris.}, 1682.

LXVIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Advocate.

30th Septr.

My Lord,—At this Councell wee choosd Duk Hamilton President. And after much debat, ten of these who wer activ in that tumult against the Clerk and Macer of the Councell are ordaind to be scurr'd in the Correction house, for wee wer unwilling to cause them all in the High Street.

Wee sent a letter recomending to Clavrose to put the lawes to execution, and promising to assist him; which hee desyred, becaus hee heard that people ver, since Sir John Dalrympl's processe,

slackening.¹ Bot Duk Hamilton scrupld much at it, till I prest it, and told that I had seen accounts which mad it necessar.

I hav taken great pains to assist honest men in all the elections heere and in the west, for ill men tak much pains. And the Tresurer having written in, that Wm. Cuningham² was making tumultuary meetings at Air, I procured a letter to send Major Vhyt to Air; and I wrot to him, that I wold insist against him for forging a commission.

Midlton's being Secretary, and this match, maks idle people talk as if it might be the fundation of a new pack; but it cannot be. And I hav written to the Duk, that it uer fit hee should speak to Midlton to keep closs with us, and particularly the Tresurer and you: and the Register assures me Midlton resolvd so himselfe; bot I will not medle till I know your own mynd.

I find that this new Lord satisfies not the people nor the lawyers; the one becaus they ar affraid that men who understand not law will cast louse propertie, and the other becaus they think ther is no design to prefer any of them; and I confesse I

¹ "31 August, 1682. Captain Grahame of Claverhouse, having imprisoned some of Sir John Dalrymple's and his father's tennents in Galloway, for Conventicles and absence from the Church, Sir John presented a Bill of Suspension to the Privy Counsell, alledging that he, as heritable baillie of the Regality of Glenluce, within which they dwelt, had first attached and prevented Claverhouse, and fyned them; and so was preferable both in diligence and to the casualties and emoluments of the fyne; the Act of 1681 of the cumulative jurisdiction not mentioning the fynes to be the King's, but leiving them as they ware before that Act. Claverhouse answered that he, as having a Shireff's commission and power from the Privy Counsell, had first cited them, and Sir John's decreets ware but colusive, and not to be regarded. The Counsell ordained them to be sett at liberty, they first consigning ther fynes (which ware most exorbitant) in ther Clerk's hands, and reserved the point of jurisdiction, and who had right to them, (they being under the quality of heritors,) till November, to be debate; but, in the meantyme, gave a chek and reprimande, that heretable Bailzies or Sheriffs, who are negligent themselves in putting the laws to execution, should not offer to compete with the Shireffs commissionat and put in by the Privy Counsell, who executed vigorously the King's laws."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, pp. 373, 374.

² Provost of Ayre.

thought it impossible when it was first told mee. Bot since it is done it must be maintaind to be fit : and I wish hee deserve it.

The Register is angry I should hav spok to you against Thomas Stewart, bot you know I did it very discreetly. Bot to shew I hav no designe in giving my opinion freely, I passe from Mr. Wm. Beton ; tho I think men of a profession should best understand the qualifications of their own trade : yet I am no pretender, and what authority does shall still please mee. I tak pains to perswad people it was not your nomination, and I beleev it was not.

The Generall writs all is quiet ; and I sent his letter to the Duk to be shown the King, for they may beleev him.

Ther was a petition given in, desyring som prisoners might be sent to Carolina ; bot I thought it ane essay shot, and so stopt it till all the King's servants might meet.

English newes you know better then I.

Duk Hamilton invited mee to dinner, bot his Duchesse was not so pleasd with mee as your honest [Lady] uses to be : my service to her.

Burne all my letters I entreat yow.

I hav gotten in from Generall the crymes and witnesses against prisoners. I misd yow much this Councell day, as I will tell ; for I was put to debats.

For my Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

LXIX.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

30th Sept.

My Lord,—The inclosed will give your Lordship ane accompt of the Duke of Monmuth's being seized by a messanger at armes at Strafford, and of his being still in the said messenger's

hands, being kept by a second warrant, he having obtained a Habeas Corpus to the first. Both the warrants were signed by Mr. Secretarie Jenkins; and Sir An. Forester writes that crimes of a verie high nature are laid to his charge. We expect great news the two or three next posts, both in relation to Monmouth, the Shiriffs, and Major of London; the Shiriffs being sworn Thursday last, and the new Major chosen Fryday. God send us good tydings.

The Councill sat, Thursday and yisterday in the forenoon, anent the ryot at Volmit. They have ordered some of the most active of that rable to be whipt; and as to Mr. Wm. Dundas and his wyf ther breaking up the door, and midling with the goods and papers within the house, the Councill have apoynted the witnesses to be examined, and to ly till the first of November to be advysed.

The Councill being informed that there was lyk to fall out some difference and tumult at Air, at their election, Tusday next, occasioned by Provost Cuninghame meddling, and stirring up the Trades against the present Magistrats, the Councill has ordered Major Whyt and a partie to repair immediately to Air, and ly there till the election be over and that town at quiet. But tho this be all well done by this Councill, by the next your Lordship shall have an account of all the minutes.

Heir all is at quiet: only our phanaticks bigg with expectation of our next week's news; quhich, that they may be disapoynted, as they use to be, is the heartie prayer off,

May it please your Lordship,
Your Lordship's most faithfull Servant,
WILL. PATERSON.

For my Lord High Chancellor: most humbly.

LXX.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 3rd Octobr. 1682.

Tuesday at noone.

May it please your Lordship,—This morneing early their Majesties and his Royall Highnes went to Newmarkett, from whence they will returne hither on Saturday the 21st instant; but the Duchesse is to accompany her mother at St. James's, and to see that a good care be had of the young Princesse, who some few dayes agoe was somewhat indisposed, but is now (blessed be God) perfectly recovered.

Here is a second letter from his Majestie to your Lordship, concerning the late Officers of the Mint, who are now to be tryed before the Session; as also another from his Majestie to the Councill, in reference to the fees of the Secretarie's office hear, and of the Signett at Edinburgh; all which the King and Duke will have to be emproved to their best advantage, as your Lordship will perceive by the copie thereof sent also herewith.

The Earle of Midleton, being now in waiting in the bed chamber, is gone with his Majestie to Newmarkett, as well on that account as to enter into his waiting as one of the tuo Secretaries of State for Scotland; and after putting some things in order in this office, I am to follow his Lordship, but the Earle of Morray is to stay at his lodgeing in Kensington untill the returne of the Court from Newmarkett.

Yesterday about noone the Countesse of Cassilles, the Earles of Perth and Balcarres, my Lord Treasurer Deputt and his lady begun their journey for Scotland, and some others will shortly follow.

In my last I told your Lordship that the poll for the election of the new Lord Mayor was putt off till yesterday, when it was againe

adjourned till this day at two afternoone; but whether it wil be at an end this night is uncertaine, the phanaticks making all the interest they can (as if it were to save their lives and fortunes from utter ruine) to have one of their gang chosen. But although in this they may happen to prevaile, it will signify nothing at all for their purpose (but rather to the contrary) his Majestie being, in such a case, resolved to make use of his Prerogative, as I told your Lordship in my last. And it will doe well to have that revived now which was not for some ages exercised by the Kings here. In the meanwhile, if not by this, I am confident by the next post, your Lordship will know the result of that affaire from,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

Just now, when it is about nine at night, I am told from the Citty that the poll will not be at an end this night. As I am going to close this packett, the inclosed for your Lordship from Mr. Kennedy is come to my hand.

LXXI.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

Edr., Oct. 4, 1682.

May it please your Lordship,—The Council is called to meet on the 10th current to obey the King's letter your Lordship sent to the Advocat for adjurning the Parliament

Upon information from Lundy to the Register, that Shirreff Bethel is come to Scotland, wee haue privilie sent orders to Claver's, Maj. White, and to Cornel Ruthven to make secret inquirie and to seize him, as wee haue also done to Capt. Graham, who will discretlie search this citie.

D. Hamilton is called to Court by a letter from the Duke; and he goeth from this within ten or twelve days; and the finall adjust-

ing of the match of his daughter is delayed till his Grace's return from England. Some demurr ariseth in the marriage, as to the warrandice of the lands to be given in jointure to the lady, and in possession to the L. Murray.

E. Middleton and E. Murray will agree as good friends in ther office as joint Secretaries; for tho the King and Duke appointed E. Murray to haue the 1000 lib. pension, and 1400 lib. out of the Signet and fees, and the superplus onlie to E. Middleton: yet E. Murray takes onlie the pension, and will generously share equallie the benefit of Signet and fees with E. Middleton. This must needs be verie obliging to his colleague.

It hath been of marvellous good use for the King and all good ends, that the D. hath been by his Majestie in this criticall juncture; for the King's firm and resolut asserting his interest and friends in the citie, hath carried the Sheriffs to be elected and sworn to his mynd; and I hope it will procure a good loyal Major also.

I sall deliver your Lordship's Precept to Mr. Thom. Gordon as you order.

The election of our Magistrats in this Towne hath ben verie peaceable and orderlie, of such men as will prove loyall and obedient to the King and to his Ministers.

I sall cairfullie obey your Lordship in saying litle of anie busines to anie bodie till I see your Lordship, whom I long much for. And I must entreat your Lordship, if your effairs can allow, that you come over to this place as soon as convenientlie you may; for I think it is not for the interest of the King's service, nor safe for your owne concerns and friends, that your Lordship be longer absent; at least I would have you here ere D. Hamilton part for Court.

E. Perth and his brother Lundy are parted as yesterday from London for Scotland.

For the Right Honourable my Lord High Chancelor of Scotland:—These.

LXXII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

Right Honourable,—Your kind letter hath more as payed the litle services I did : so that your future favours will be as frank as your former, which were only the products of voluntar freendship. I will only compett with your Lordship in the sincerity and constancy of that.

The account yow sent up to the D. of the armes of Arg., tho not formidable was not eyd by him as despicable; and there is not such a thing as too great precaution. For ill men in England tho they know the unconsiderablnes of a Scots rebellion, yett a rebellion heer, tho nere so litle, might give lyfe and motion to on there, and none so probable heer as in that shyre; nor would it be so desyable to the bad English at any tyme as now, when the seditious there are at their last prayers. On which account I wish Mac Nachtan were there in exercise of jurisdiction, and in the house of Inereray; for [none] I know could be so proper at this tyme ether to try or suppress any such intention as he. But his comission most be from Councell, and without your expresse proposeing, eyther by presence or a letter, I will not motion it. As likewise the comission of Chamberlanrie to his brother and the other can only be from your Lordship, because of the Comissione's reference to your self only; on which account I have heer inclosed the Mar. of Athole's attestation of the cautioners, for your further approbation.

Wee had some insinuation from England, that Shireff Bethel is come for Scotland. I imparted it to the B. of Edr. and L. Adv. Wee ar searching for him heer in the south and west as diligently and quietly as wee can.

I hope to morrow's post will bring us as good news of the Maj. electione as yesterday's did of the Shirefs. For Shireff Pilkinton delivered his staff of office with his owne hand to North;

but Shutt was drunk and could not deliver his to Rich; but the Maj. did it for him.

The election yesterday heer was the quietest that ever was, especially when the trades were clearly outvoted by the merchants, this beeing the first tyme that ever the merchants were unanimous.

I give postly accounts to his R. Hs., and told him that in your absence yow had desyred me to doe so. I am,

My Lord,

Your most faithfull friend and Servant,

GEO. M^cKENZIE.

Edr., 4th October, 82.

D. Ham. is writt for by the D. to be installed. He goes in fourteen dayes hence. The match twixt him and Ath. is not concludit till he return from London. I will tell Colinton this day your kyndnes to him.

LXXIII.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

Edr, 4th October.

May it please your Lordship,—Besyds the inclosed Journells of the Councill and Committie, I hawe no farther to add save that the Comittie having been informed that Shiriff Bethell, ane eminent villan, ves come privatly to Scotland: which certainly could be on no good design: they have given privat orders, under ane oath of secresie, to apprehend him. Our phanaticks heir ar much disappoynted of ther pregnant expectations and hopes, annent the Shiriffs, who ar now in peaceable possession of ther office.

Campbell, the skiper, that deponed befor your Lordship annent that designe of importing armes to Cairnbulg, is in the tolbuith of Edinburgh.

All your Lordship's faithfull and treu servants longs to have
you heir, and non more than,

May it please your Lordship,
Your most faithful and oblidged servant,

WILL. PATERSON.

For my Lord High Chancellour of Scotland.

LXXIV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 5th Octr. '82.

Thursday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Ther being in the printed occurrences of this day (here inclosed) an account of the proceedings at Guildhall since my last, concerning the éléction of the new Lord Mayor, I should hardly have given you any trouble of this nature by this ordinary, were it not to tell you the sadd news of the young Princesse having fallen very ill againe since yesterday morning, after it was generally beleived that shee was fully recovered. I went this day to St. James's purposely to know her condition, where one of the ladies told me ther was very litle hopes of her recovery; which is no small affliction to all good men.

Ther is yet no reason to doubt but wee will have a very good Mayor, either by the continuance of the old, or the declaring of a new that wil be most loyal; but we know not certainly who wil be declared by this Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen until the examination of the books of the poll be over, which is expected wil be to morrow or the next day; in which case, your Lordship may expect a more particular account by the next post.

This day the Lord Downe, and the late Lord Lorne with their ladies, began their journey for Scotland; as did Sir George Kinaird yesterday; and I am told that the Lord Lyon (lately come

from Holand) and Drumellier, with some others, will follow in few dayes ; as wil the Earle of Lauderdale some time next week. I am, with all possible respect and duty,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

LXXV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 7th Octor., 82.

Saterday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—It is now with a sadd heart that I am to tell you the sorrowfull news of the death of the young Princesse, which happened last night ; and she is to be embalmed to morrow, in order to her interment within few dayes (privatly) in King Henry the Seaventh's chappell at Westminster. Upon the first notice of her indisposition that was sent to his Royall Highnes, he came in great haste from Newmarket, (not having been much above five houres by the way,) and came on Thursday's night to St. James's, from whence he will returne in few dayes to Newmarkett to waite on his Majestie ; and they are to come back to this place this day fortnight, being the 21st instant, and only tuo dayes befor the terme.

The new Lord Mayor is not as yet declared ; but as I told you before, so I doe still humbly assure your Lordship, that, one way or other, his Majestie wil be secure of a good Mayor for the year ensueing, and (I hope in God) for many yeares thereafter.

The inclosed from Mr. Kennedy¹ was, by the last Holand's post, sent under cover to,

My noble Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

A. FORRESTER.

¹ James Kennedy, sometime Sheriff-Clerk of Aberdeen, Conservator appointed by the Scottish Burghs at the staple port of the Netherlands.

LXXVI.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Advocate.

10th Octr.

My Lord,—Wee had a jimpe quorum, and hav adjourn'd the Parliament. I represented to the Councell that the Commissioners of the Highlands doubted if they might proceed without respect to the regulations as the Commissioners of the Borders, which the Councell granted; as also they allow'd them to grant protections to such as they cited, they being a Justice Court, and the Commissioners of Justiciarie having that power by Act of Parliament.

Ther is an infamous lybell com doun against the Councell's severity in a Protestant Mercurie, which wee ordour'd the Clerks of the Councell to answer; and that to be sent to Andrew Forrester to be put in the ordinary Gazet.

D. Hamilton met yesterday with the Tresurer at Sir Wm. Lockhart's house; and I wrot last week to him to be very fast to us, as wee wold be to him, and wee needed it very much, and not to beleev stories. And really when I consider all, wee ar happie in your principls and loyaltie, and that wee ar sure yow wold dy and begge for the comon cavalier cause: and in conscienc so wold I: and I hav oft told so to the Duk and yow. And yet I fear wee meet not with all men of the sam temper. Bot, however, wee must mak the best of evry man and accident for the King our master, and the Duk our patron. I told the lat President¹ that I wold not own him against our principls; vherupon, D. Hamilton told mee, hee sent for S. G. Lockhart, who has been very generous to him.

Clavrose has brok a caball that was designing in Galloway, to undertak for the peace of the countrey as Clidsdale did. The countrey is most peacable, and the shyr of Air is lyk to be as peacable as Angus, and keep the kirk as well.

¹ Sir James Dalrymple of Stair.

Burn all my letters. Tarbat is very firme to yow, and wee delight to speak of yow, and of all honest men.

For my Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

LXXVII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk Register.

Right Honorable,—Wee have litle to say from this, all being in peace: only the busines twixt Clevres and Sr. Jo. Dalr. seemes to grow. I wonder of Sr. Jo's. prudence.¹

The B. of Galloway² is heer, and tels me that the supporting of Clevres there is positively essentiall for the quiett of that shyre, and thinks the consequences will be bad if that be not done, and that the doeing of it will bring that shyre as weell to a reall and true as to outward submission.

What will come of the election of the Maj. I cannot divine; but it's thought the King needs not allow the person chosen to be sworne in Exchequer; and, till a new on be chosen, the old is to exerce. I heare E. Shaftsb. is stept aside, but this needs confirmation.

In Councell, yesterday, the Parl. is adjournd: that twixt the towne of Kircaldy and Shirref deput is continued till Novemb. The Councell ordord ther Clerk to give nottice to Sir And. For. to publish there adverting to Mr. Curtis' lying and villanous fals Gazett; and if your Lordship had been heer, it uould have been proposed to have more signall nottice taken of it. For its untollerable that such false and seditious papers should be disperst heer; but it uas fit this should be done in a more solemn Councell. E. Midlton's commis-

¹ See above, pp. 77, 78.

² James Aitkens or Aiken: translated from Moray to Galloway, February, 1680. He had a dispensation to reside at Edinburgh, "because it was thought unreasonable to oblige a reverend prelate of his years to live among such a rebellious and turbulent people, as those of that diocese were."—Keith's Catalogue, p. 282. (Ed. 1824.)

sion was received in Councell, and a letter writt to the E. of Murray to give him the Test.

Wee hope for your Lordship shortly, which will be very pleasing to all, and cheefly to,

My Lord,
Your faithfull Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

Edr, ii. Octob., 1682.

I did lett Colinton see your kind letter.

LXXVIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Clerk
Register. •

Right Honble,—I was troubled when on did insinuat to me last day that your Lordship had taken some umbrage at what I did in the matter of Colinton. I am sure I moved in that by those methods which were fitt for me as your freend and servant, and no other-ways; for I never offerd no not opinion to the D., but with submission and deference to yow. I acquainted you of all that was said, and never proposed to have any thing done but by your determination. I stopt untill your letters incouradged me to say more. I told Colinton (but never insinuat to him, nor no mortall beside your self, till I returnd) how your kindnes was that only which could state him right. I gave him just accounts of your favour to him. I ever proposed equall kindnes to the other, only I did, and still does think, that it is the K's., the D's, and your owne interest to have that place in the other's persone: that pleasure ever determined me, so that it most be pure misfortune if you mistake, whom I was serveing with more zeall then ever I did myself; but I will not beleeve you can, without ground better then apprehensiones, mistake me. I suppose others, whom I eyed not as concerned, nor

had not such deference for, are the misconstructers, if any be; but that your Lordship will soone remove from,

Right Honourable,
Your most affectionat Servant,

GEO. M'KENZIE.

Edr. 18th October, 1682.

Prichard will cary the poll; Shaft. is absconded; Lord Stair is in Holland. His sonne, Hugh is on his returne. D. Ham. goes on Friday for London.

For the Right Honorable the Lord High Chancelor of Scotland.

LXXIX.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, October 24th, 1682.

My Lord,—I houp this will find you saif and ueall returned to Edinb., which I uishe uithe all my heart.

Yesterday I had a letter by the Holland Pakit from Sir James Dalrymple, uich this morninge I showed his R. Highnes, and he advysed I showld send it or a coppye of it to your Lordship. And now I send you the principall inclosed, which your Lordship may plaze to returne uithe uhat you think fitt to say upon it, at your conveniens.

The Dwk also shoued me a letter urytin to you by the Bishop of Morray,¹ but I houp the ground of that shall now be remoued. For the Kinge haueinge done my son the honor to name him Shriff, bothe himself and sutch as he will imploy uill mak it ther bussines to establishe the quyet of that cuntry, altho you ueall know what kynd of people many of them are; yit ar they as feard for the law, and as caerfull of ther purses, as any whatsoever.

¹ Colin Falconer: Bishop of Argyle, September, 1679; translated to Moray, February 1680. Died, 1686.

I uill not troble you uithe mor scribblinge at this tyme, haueing wrytin to the Bishop of Edinb. of som other particulars which he uill communicat to you, but to assur you that I am unalterably,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

LXXX.—FROM JAMES, EARL OF PERTH.

Drd., 30th Octr., 82.

My Lord,—Seing I intend to send one expressly to know uhat commands your Lordship has for me, to be sure not to mistake in any circumstance of obedience, I shal only nou put your Lordship in mind of a humble request I made to you in behalf of Mr. Th. Steuart.¹ I hear old Lord Nevoy has laid down the barrow, and if your Lordship uold now recomend Mr. Steuart to his place, it uold be a great kindness done to me. I uas told at Edr. that it had been said to your Lordship, that not only in that, but in other things, I had been moving the Duke at London; but I hope you knou me better than to belive I uold go beyond my line. I never spoke of Mr. Steuart to him, but with this provision, that he uere recommended by your Lordship, otheruays to considder my concern as none at all; for in all the instances that can hapen, your Lordship shall find that deference from me which is really due, and which I have ever born to you, and ever shal; for I am no body's servant by halves, much less yours, for your Lordship shall ever find me entirly,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble Servant,

PERTH.

¹ Sir Thomas Stuart of Blair. On the decease of Sir David Nevoy, he was nominated an Ordinary Lord of Session, November, 1683, and took his seat as Lord Balcaskie.

LXXXI.—From WILLIAM, DUKE of HAMILTON.

9th December.

My Lord,—I recewew your Lordship's, and am very sencable of your justice and faver as to the delays already Mr. Eleis' proces¹ has mett uith; and to procure the continuance off itt untill Janr., that I come in, I have write to my Lady Erroll to interpose uith her brother; that then not onely that proces, but others wee are like to have, may be putt to an end: so that all debates betuixt our famelys, that has so long lived so well togither, may be taken away; and I doubt not your joining with her will prevaiill uith her brother, and so free you of the trouble of more debate in the house till then.

I have not seen yett Lt. Gen. Drumond: so what you mean I do not understand; but in all capacities I am or can be in, I shall be very really,

Your Lordship's most affectionatt Cusen and Servant,

HAMILTON.

LXXXII.—From the PROVOST and MAGISTRATES of ABERDEEN.

Right Honorable,—May it please your Lordship, as the severall steps of honor his sacred Majestie hes been pleased to conferr most deservedly on your Lordship wes, tyme after tyme, most pleasing newes to us: So now that your Lordship is further honored with Titles of eminencie, which transmitts to your posteritie, wee presume heartily to congratulate the same, and wishes that the Lord may long preserve your Lordship in health, to serve his Majestie and your Cuntrie in that eminent statione ye are in, and

¹ A protracted litigation between John Elies of Elieston and the Duke of Hamilton will be found reported in Fountainhall's Decisions, vol. i., pp. 102, 124, 127, 142, 171, 182, 224, 228.

blisse your hopefull Sone and other Children, that as they may succeed your Lordship not only to your honor and dignitie, but vertue, which hes, for thir many generations bygone, been the praise of your honorable familie. And now, as wee and this Citie hes hade the honor of your Lordship's favor and countenance, and of late so full and free promises of owning us in our just interests, and protecting us in our rights and priviledges, wee therfor humbly intreat the continuance therof; and doe reckone that your Lordship, by your Title, will be more myndfull of this poor Toune, and think your selfe further concerned as EARLE of ABERDEEN: which will more and more knitt the hearts of the Inhabitants to your Lordship, and obledge them and all of us to transmitt a full sense and recentment of your favors to oure posterities. Wee beg pardone for this Adress, and without giveing further truble, shall only assure your Lordship that it shall be still our great studie to approve our selves,

Right Honorable,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servants,

GEO. SKENE, Prowest.

G. LESSLIE, Baillie.

ANDREW MITCHELL, Baillie.

WALTER ROBERTSON, Baillie.

Jo. GORDON, Baillie.

Aberdeen, 23d December, 1682.

For the Right Honorable my Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

LXXXIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Desember 28th, 1682.

My Lord,—Yours of the 21st I had last night; and this morn-
inge I hede bothe E. Hom's. letter and the Representatione from

the noblemen and gentlemen of the shyers of Berwike and Roxburghe to his R. Highnes, who is abundantly saetisfud withe bothe. He hes orderd me to show them to E. Rotcheester, and to discours the bussines uithe him; which shall be done so sone as conveniently I can; and then your Lordship shall haue account what probably may be the issiue.

I am very confident bothe the King and Dwk uill most uilingly doe uhat is fitt for your faemely and childring, and ther uil need non to assist in that matter; but be assured, so far as my service can be of uss to you in that or any thinge els, I shall most cherfully extend it for your service.

Elsike Baenerman's patent of Knight Barronet goes by this night's post.

Letters to the Councill for adinge Lord Castilhill, and Gosfurd, to ther number, are drauinge, and uill be sent verry sudinly; so uil that for takinge auaye exemptions; and the other conserninge the Justice court. I am most fathefully,

My Lord,

Your most humble and sincear Servant,

MORRAY.

LXXXIV.—FROM WILLIAM, DUKE OF HAMILTON.

Hamilton, 5th Jan., 1683.

My Lord,—Since my return here, I have by myself and my servants used all the diligence I could to discover the authors of that protestation was affixed on the Church of Lismahagow. And albeit there be litle discovered, yett I find there is some insolent rebels, who are very wicked fellowes, that lurks in the head of that parish and the heads of Kile; who are so bold that my servant, who lives there as chamberland, looks upon himself as scarce securr of his life. I am about the discovery of their

resetters, and has made some progres therin, as the bearer, Ja. Johnston, will fully inform your Lordship; and also of a rescue was made at Dalserfe last night of a rebell, that a chamberland and a tenant of mine had taken: which being long storys, I do choise rather to give you the trouble of them by him then this way; and desires your Lordship's advice what is further fitt for me to do in these matters, and it shall be observed: none being more ready to serve the King, and contrebut to the peace of the countrey then,

My Lord.

Your Lordship's most humble Servant,

HAMILTON.

LXXXV.—From WILLIAM, DUKE of HAMILTON.

Hamilton, 12th Janr., 83.

My Lord,—I received your Lordship's, and did not thinke to have troubled you untill I had been able to given you a more full account of my indevores, in the discovery of these rebells and their resetters I mentioned in my last. But haveing received a letter from the Earle off Calander, shoueing me of a proces that the Earle of Dumfermling is persueing againest him of great consequence, and knoueing I am somewhat acquanted uith that bussines, and that I am concerned by the contract off mariage uith his lady, to looke to her consern in that estate, she haveing got a considerable portion from this famely, is very earnest uith me to be there on Monday; Teusday being, itt seams, the last day given him to say what he had further in that proces. Being under a course of phisik, it is not, uithout danger, in my pouer to come in so soon; therfor, I make it my earnist sute to your Lordship to delay that proces untill I have the honor to waite on you, that iff I be not instrumentall to agrie the matter, I may at least indevore to

inform you of his contract of mariage, that no injury be done to what was therein agried; which I hope the memory of her father will plead from your Lordship, as I am sure itt wold with his Majestie: so I need no other arguments for a small delay, and shall onely ad that I am,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most humble Servant,

HAMILTON.

LXXXVI.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Jan. 23, 168 $\frac{2}{3}$

My Lord,—Yours of the 16th I reseaved; and for my conserne in Park's Ward¹ I leaue it altogether to your justice and dispatch.

Yisterday Earle Rotchester tould me that upon the representation I had giuen, the Commisioners of the Customs had sent orders to thos that serve them on the Borders to desist from exacting customs from any who caerie coles to the Scots syde; and that ther would be no more of it, and that in some tyme I showld haue ane anssuer in uryt.

The E. Middleton beinge in uaeting, uas orderd to send a quere to the Advocat conserninge sutch of our nation as are in Holland; but seinge he will certinly advyse it withe you, I shall say no more of it, but that I am,

My Lord,
Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

¹ See above, p. 8.

LXXXVII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 27th Janry., 8 $\frac{2}{3}$

Saturday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—I am now to tell you very good news (which yet would have been much better, many yeares agoe, had it consisted with God's good pleasure) that upon Sunday last, at night, the Earle of Shaftsbury departed this life, at Amsterdam; whereof an account was brought by one of his servants who came in a shipp that (after a very quick passage) arrived in this river yesterday morning from Holand; which also is confirmed by letters from severall persons in the towne where he ended his factious life. But of this there is no doubt, but your Lordship will have a more full account from much better hands.

The remissions mentioned in my last wil be sent this night to Banockburne, who will deliver them gratis (according to the Councell's order) to the persons concerned; but is first of all to waite on your Lordship, to know your pleasure in reference to the time and method of his so doing.

LXXXVIII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 30th Janry., 8 $\frac{2}{3}$

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Here is the King's letter to the Privy Councell, concerning a new Proclamation to be issued for the further continuance of the adjournment of the Parliament to the tenth day of July next, as your Lordship will perceive at greater length by the copie thereof here inclosed. But if it is materiall to have forty free dayes in a Proclamation for a continuation of the adjournment, as it is for the calling of a Parliament, ther is no

more of time left than to doe the busines; but it is belened here that ther is no such necessity, which yet your Lordship must know better there.

LXXXIX.—From GEORGE, EARL MARISCHAL.¹

Inveruigie, 19th Feb., 1683.

My Lord,—The experienc and confidence I haue of your fauor maks me giue your Lordship this truble. Being informed ther is ane considerable soume taken wp off such as wold not giue obedience to the law, I hop by your Lordship's fauor and recommendation I may haue ane schear. You wer pleased to speak of this to me.

Your Lordship knous I was euer redie to serue the King, when euer anie oportunitie offered. I was tuise prisoner, and all I hed sequestrat for ane considerable tym; which could not but bring ane great burdene on my brother's² estat, he being in the same condition I was in.

I leue all to yourself, and shall make it my constant study to aproue myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull humble Servant,

MARISCHALL.

XC.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Febr. 6th, 1683

My Lord,—I acquented the Kinge and the Dwk uithe the letter I reseaved from the Councill, recommendinge Cuningame of

¹ Eighth Earl Marischal. He succeeded to his brother on his death, in 1661, without male issue surviving.

² William, seventh Earl Marischal. He was prisoner in the Tower at the Restoration.

Mongrini¹ to his Majesty's mercy, for a remissione for his lyffe; which was orderd. But after I had red that which was sent up, I found some exteordinary clausis in it, so that it is returned by this post; and I haue appointed the new draught to be brought to your Lordship to sie befor it be sent hear. I am,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

I say nothinge to you of Tressury matters, seing I uryt fully of them to my Lord Tressurer himself, uho certinly imparts them to you.

XCI.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Febr., 168 $\frac{2}{3}$

My Lord,—The Earle of Middleton beinge in uaetinge, will giue you account of all that is orderd by his Majesty conserning Blackwood² and other matters which I nede not repeat.

¹ See Wodrow's History, vol. iii., p. 449.

"The Council write up a letter to the Secretary, that a remission may be sent down to Thomas Cuninghame of Montgrenan, in the shire of Ayr. This gentleman had been seized by Ardmillan a little after Bothwell; and if his declaration may bear weight, vile methods were taken with him to witness against the Lord Bargeny, Duke Hamilton, and others. By the registers, December 4th, 1679, I find a letter from the King to the Council, declaring that Ardmillan's diligence in taking Montgrenan is very acceptable, and he will reward it; and Ardmillan having delivered him to be examined by the Privy Council, the King exonerates the said Ardmillan, and approves his taking of Montgrenan, and keeping him prisoner in his house. I know no farther in this affair, save what is in Montgrenan's declaration before the Council, August 13th, 1681, which hath been more than once printed . . . For anything I know, Montgrenan continued in prison till this year, and got a remission." — Wodrow's History, vol. iii., pp. 434, 435.

² William Lawrie of Blackwood, chamberlain to the Marquis of Douglas. He was convicted, and was sentenced to be executed, for resetting and harbouring rebels. An account of the proceedings in his case is given in Wodrow's History, vol. iii., pp. 449–452. — Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i. pp. 380, 387, 409, 414. See also Kirkton's History, pp. 238, 239 (Sharpe's ed.)

I shall only nou retorne you my humble thanks for all your favors you are still pleased to express in my conserns, and particularly of Park Ward, which I earnestly desyr may be ended this session : and I am intyrlly,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant.

MORRAY.

XCII.—From Sir JOHN GRAHAME of Claverhouse.¹

[] March 1, 1683.

My Lord,—I have don all I had to doe here, as my Lord Treasurer may inform your Lordship, and will be to morou at Carlyll, and I hop at Neumarket on Monday or Tuesday.

I found Clidsdeall full of lays : such as my Lord Huntly's gitting a regiment, but that my Lord Deuk Hamilton and Atholl oposed it strongly in Councell ; and that the King was either dead or daying at least quyt deaf ; and many other lays. On treuth I heard confirmed that Lie² had don wonders for bringing his peopell to conformity, and had certainly, whatever som people say, cast a good pairt of his land waist by it. This I had from the minister of Seimington. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and humble Servant,

J. GRAHAME.

For my Lord Chancelour.

¹ Afterwards Viscount Dundee.

² Lockhart of Lee.

XCIII.—From ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF LAUDERDALE.¹Whithall, March the 1st, 8 $\frac{2}{3}$

My Lord,—By all the accounts which I receiue out of Scotland, I fynd your Lordship's goodness to me such as does lay the greatest obligation upon me to be thankfull and sensible euin to the highest degree. And tho I am at present no other than a fitt obiect for your charity and justice, yitt I hope so to discharge my duty on all occassions, as to be so happie to deserve the lasting continuation of your freindship, which is to me not only a great suport, but euen the most of my ambition and happeness.

I shall not trouble your Lordship with any perticulers relateing to my case, seing I haue intrusted some persons with the case to informe you.

This only I must say, that the more you know of my conserns, the more you will fynd reason to owne me, and to aproue of such legal courses as I am oblidge to take for my owne security. And when they ar settled your Lordship shall be my judg, iff in any thing I shall act contrary to what I haue given under my hand, and agreeable to the settlement which my most honoured Lord did make: all which both are and euer shall be most sacred to me, and I wish they may be so to all others who are therin consernd.

My Lord,

I am your Lordship's most oblidge
and most humble Seruant,

E. LAUDERDALE.

My most humble seruiss to the Countess of Aberdeene.

¹ Elizabeth Murray, widow of Lauderdale. An account of this lady is given in a note at pp. 315–319 of Sharpe's Edition of Kirkton's Secret and True History of the Church of Scotland.

XCIV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORRAY.

Whythall, March 24th, 1683.

My Lord,—Sins my cuminge from Newmarkit, ther hapned on Thursday at nyne a klok at night a dredfull fyre ther, which, in a few hours, consumed the wholl syd of the toune opposit to the King's lodgings, but nothings tutchet on that syde they are. His Majesty and the uholl court come hither on Monday's night.

Sir Andrew Forrester shows me a letter, orderd sins my cominge auay from his Majesty, to my Lord St Andrews, calinge him upe, which goes by this post. I am under phisike, and not able to uryt mor; but thought it fitt to acquaint you of this, which must also serve my Lord Tressurer, withe my humble service to him; and I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

XCV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, March 27th, 1683.

My Lord,—The Bishop of Edinb., in a letter I had by last post, tels me that my sone does not prosecut that commision and instructions you intrusted him uithe so diligently as uas expected, which I am amazed at; for sure I am he, or the faemely he is come of, ows them littill kyndnes. I haue wrytin to him by this post, which I am confident uill put him to his duty, in proceedinge effectually, as he is instructed, uithe caer and diligence.

I belive the Bishop of Morray hes urytine to your Lordship desyringe that you uill pleas, out of the vacant stipends of that shyre, to grant som small sowm towards the repaering of the church of Elgin. It is a commendable and charritable work, and I must interced uithe you that you uill doe something effectually in it.

Bonokburne uill uaet on your Lordship about it, and giue in a petitione to the Councill, as you advyse, about it : which will mutch oblidge all honest men in that cuntry, and particularly,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant.

MORRAY.

XCVI.—From ALEXANDER, ARCHBISHOP of ST. ANDREWS.¹

Windsor, May the 3d.

May it please your Lordship,—In my last, I told you his Majestie had commanded me to returne to London, to waite upon my Lord of Canterbury, and the other Bishops, with whom I had two meetings at Lambeth ; and last night I returned hither, and gave his Majesty and R. H. ane account of what passed at our meetings, with which they seemed well satisfied.

I was sorry to find at my returne that there had beene some hott and unkind debates among our friends, and particularly that any of our number should be concerned in them, and must beseech your Lordship to prevent and compose (as much as you can) all those unhappy controversies. For if we be united among ourselves, our poore nation may be usefull to his sacred Majestie, and considered in the world ; but if we breake to pieces among our selves, we will signifie nothing. Both your eminent station and great parts, with your excellent temper and composure of spirit, makes that easy for your Lordship, which is not to be attempted by others ; and so noble a worke will be worthy your care and paines.

We have great hopes now that (after all the opposition the Citty

¹ Alexander Burnet. He held a living in England, but was ejected in 1650 by the Puritans. In 1663 he was consecrated Bishop of Aberdeen ; translated to Glasgow in 1664 ; Archbishop of St. Andrews, on the murder of Archbishop Sharp, 1679. Died August, 1684.

hath made) the Qwo Warranto will goe very well, and that tumultuous citty will be made sensible of their folly.

If your Lordship please to honour me with any of your commands, they shall be faithfully observed and obeyed by,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and faithfull Servant,

ALEX. ST. AND.

For the Right Honourable the Earle of Aberdeene, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

XCVII.—From ALEXANDER, ARCHBISHOP of ST. ANDREWS.

Windsor, May the 17.

May it please your Lordship,—I had the honour to receive your Lordship's of the 8th of May, on Tuesday morning, at London; and yesterday in the morning I waited on his R. H., and as I could I represented to him the deep sense your Lordship had of his Majestie's and his Highnesse's favour and bounty to you, and the assurance they might have of your Lordship's fidelity and integrity in their service; to which his Highnesse replied with very much sweetness and affection, acknowledging all and more then I could say.

The King went yesterday, early in the morning, to Hampton Court, where an extraordinary councill was called, of which my next may probably give your Lordship an account, for I love not to write at random. All things goe very well here, and I hope will visibly mend every day.

My services to the King or countrey can signifie but very little, either here or elsewhere; but if it please your Lordship so farre to consider me, as to lett me know how, or wherein, I may serve either yourself or the publike, I will promise you, upon the faith of an honest man, I shall observe and obey

your commands, and puresue, what you propose to me with all the witt and interest I can pretend to; and when I have done you all the service I can, I will ingenuously acknowledge that it is much lesse than you have deserved of the Church in generall, and particularly of,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most thankfull and obedient Servant,

ALEX. ST. AND.

This day, since I began to write, I waited on the King, and acquainted his Majestie with the deep sense your Lordship had of his royall bounty and favour, and spoke what was proper for me upon that occasion; to which his Majestie made a most gracious answere, as much to your advantage as your heart could wish.

Yesterday, at Councill, my Lord Gray was bound, in a ten thousand pound bond, for keeping the peace, and two others with him as sureties in two thousand pound a piece, as I am informed.

XCVIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, May 29th, 1683.

My Lord,—Yisterday I had a letter from Earle Middleton, telinge me that the Dwke hes orderd a letter to be draune, for putinge the Archbishop of Glasgow on the Councill, which I caery uithe me to morrow to Windsor, being now my waetinge. The Archbishop of St. Andrews is also to caery a letter from his Majesty to the Councill, wharof you shall haue ane account as sone as I com ther.

I am verry sensible of all your noble favours to me and myne, which I most heartily acknowlige to you, and shall ever be redy to uitnes, being most firme and intyrlly,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathlefull Servant,

MORRAY.

XCIX.—From Sir JOHN GRAHAME of CLAVERHOUSE.

For the Earle of Aberdeen,

Lord High Chancelour of Scotland.

CLAVERHOUSE being called befor the Comitty of Counsell, gave this account of the affaires of Galouay :

That there was no need to tell them what was the state of it befor he went thither, seing the Government had looked on it for many moneths befor as almost in a state of war ; and it was thocht unsaife for any thing less then an army to ventur in to it. And at his aryvall there he kneu not what to say of it, fynding above three or four hundred people actually guilty of the late rebellion, who, notwithstanding, had lieved these three years by past almost in parfait freedom, and possessed in, dispyt of authority, betuixt thretty and fourty thousand marks a year ; and that, beseids those, there wer many hondred mor guilty of recett and comuning with rebelles who were all on wing : The churches were quyte desert ; no honest man, no minister in saifty.

The first work he did was to provyd magasins of corn and strawe in evry pairt of the contry, that he might with conveniency goe with the wholl pairty wherever the King's service requyred ; and runing from on place to ane other, nobody could knou wher to surpryse him : And in the mean tyme quartered on the rebelles, and indevoured to distroy them by eating up their provisions ; but that they quikly perceived the dessein, and sowed their corns on vntilled ground. After which, he fell in search of the rebelles, played them hotly with pairtys, so that there wer severall taken, many fied the contry, and all wer dung from their hants ; and then rifled so their houses, ruined their goods, and imprisoned their servants, that their wyfes and schildring were broght to sterving ; which forced them to have recours to the saif conduct, and made them glaid to renounce their

principles, declair Bothwell Bridge ane unlawfull rebellion, swear never to ryse in armes against the King, his airs or successors, or any having comission or authority from him, upon any pretext whatsomever, and promise to lieve orderly hereafter: And that all the heritors almost, except Earlestoun, and tuo or three mor that wer not in the contry, had actually seigned a bond much to that purpose: and that it was his opinion that the most pairt of them might be broght to take the Test, seeing they and their family goe in the mean tyme to church without any further assurance from him, but that he should plead for them.

Then he gave account that all most all the litle people had made application to him; but that he had refused them saif conduct; but promised he should represent their cease to his Hyghness at his return, and douted not but their would be som way aloued to secur them of their lyfes and libertys: And declaired to the Comitty it was absolutely necessary for setling the country; and douted they could be broght to take the Test by cause of their ignorance, but easily to some thing equivalent. For amongst all the prisoners he made, he found non that was ambitious of the honor of martirdom; but all renounced their principles befor they would give testimony, saif only on, upon whom was found Grey's letter, and is nou coming hither by order of Counsell; and that even he acknowledged the King's authority in civilles: so that he had no occasion to make use of the Comission of Justiciary, but sett them aluays at liberty upon sufficient caution to apear when called; and that by advyse from my Lord Advocat.

Then he gave the Comitty account hou that he had asisted the donators to take posession of their esteats, and forced the tenants to take taks of the King or his donators in all the forfeited esteats. With all it uas his opinion, that it uas not fit any of those esteats should be sould to the rebelles' friends, at least for their use, till they make their peace, or be dead.

After he had broght the rebelles to this pass, he concluded there

could be no sudain dessein of reising. And seing people uho had loosed there fortunes and ventured their lyfes for that quarell, had not only given obedience, but uer broght to conformity, he judged there could be no danger to indevor, by discreet measeurs, to bring the uholl body of the people to the church ; which was the second pairt of his comission.

And, in order to this, the first thing he did, least the people should take too hotly the alarum, was to goe along all the contry, and calling them, by three or four parishes together, to read his Comission and lybell against them ; and after assour them that, notwithstanding of all they might knou themselves guilty of by the breache of those lawes, they needed not be aprehensiv if they had a mynd to give obedience ; that the King had no dessein to ruin them, nor yet to inrich himself, but only was positively resolved to bring them to conformity ; and, if there were sever things don, they might bleam themselves. After which, for their incouragemet, he caused publish a peaper at all the parish churches to this purpose : that all, under heritors, that uer not guilty of recett or comuning with rebells or intercommuned persons, or of field conventicles, or insulting the regular clergy, should be free of all bygons if they would goe to church. And fynding that the most pairt wer guilty of field conventicles, he thoght fit to give a second intimation that even those might expect favour ; and in end fynding hou good effects this had produced, he asseured them that, whatever there guilt was, if they gave obedience they needed fear no great severity. And in the mean tyme he sett up deputs in evry pairt of the contry with puer to examin upon oath ; uhich they did, man by man, and marque their deposition ; and orders to acquaint them that if, uithin so many days, they gaue not obedience, they would be used with the utmost severity of lawe ; and uho remained obstinat, especiall heritors, be punished severly, by laying them in prison till they should fynd sufficient caution for

the payment of their fyne : But, upon offer of obedience, he excepted alluays of a bond for a blank sum, and filled up may be the tuentieth pairt to shou them it might all be mony ; and then discharged them for so much, leaving the rest over their head for sourty for their good cariage : and making som examples of this of the first gentry of the contry, the rest did not put him to the trouble, giving tymous obedience.

Those measours brought things to that pass that it could not be knouen in most pairts uho uere absent : uhereupon he ordered the colecttors of evry parish to bring in exact rolls, upon oath, and atested by the minister ; and caused read them evry Sondag after the first sermon, and marque the absents ; who wer severly punished if obstinat. And wherever he heard of a parish that was considerably behynd, he went thither on Saturday, having acquainted them to meet, and asseured them he would be present at sermon ; and whoever uas absent on Sondag was punished on Monday ; and who would not apear either at church or court, he caused arest there goods, and then offer them saif conduct : which broght in many, and will bring in all, and actually broght in tuo outed disorderly ministers ; the on was glaid for to gate the arestment loosed to fynd caution never to set his foot within that jurisdiction whyll he had any interest, and was fyned in somthing to the poor ; and the other goes to church, and promised never to preache or baptyse more in that contry.

And it may be nou saifly said that Galouay is not only as peaceable, but as regular as any pairt of the contry on this seyde Tey. And the rebelles ar reduced without blood, and the contry broght to obedience and conformity to the church government without severity or extortion ; feu heritors being fyned, and that but gently ; and under that non is or are to be fyned, but tuo or three in a parish : and the authority of the church is restored in that contry, and the ministers in saifty. If there wer bonds once taken

of them for regularity hereafter, and some feu men put in garrison, which may all be don in a few moneths, that contry may be secur for a long tyme both to King and Church.

C.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY, and the LORD ADVOCATE :
on Circuit.

Stirling, 6th June, 1683.

At 12 at night.

My Lord,—We thought it our duty to acquaint your Lordship and the Councill of the loyall and kind reception we hade from the Shirriffs, and the gentlemen of the respective shyres throwe whiche we past to this place: in which we and all others might cleirly see what great respect this kingdom nowe beares to those who are commissionat by his Majestie for punishing of rebellion, of which they so cheirfullie declaire a great abhorrence.¹

The first thing we did when we came wes to regulat our Clerk, ² with his own consent, as to his fies; so that non cane justlie complaine.

In the nixt place, we took great care that his Majestie's vassalls, in calling the suit rolls, should be obleidged to attend his courts upon such solemne occasions, and to obviat all preparatives, which, by corruption or negligence, hade past to his Majestie's prejudice formerlie upon such occasions; and yet so as that gentlemen, who hade attendit so dutyfullie, might not be tyed to unnecessar and tedious dependance.

¹ "5, Junij, 1683, et diebus sequentibus. The Circuit Court began at Stirling, and, on the 10th day, at Glasgow, and so forward throw the other places. In thes places the Justice-Deputes went bare-headed, as Ushers to the Court, before the Criminall Lords; but they were not obliged to doe it."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. 1. p. 442.

The Proclamation for holding these Circuits is printed in Wodrow's History, pp. 475-478; also the Instructions to the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary, &c., pp. 480, 481, 483.

² "Honest Thom. Gordon."

We found on the verie first day, that some gentlemen had come from the more westerne shyres to observe what methods we followed here, especiallie in relation to the Test; and therfor we have warranted his Majestie's Advocat to declare, efter he hade represented the designe of this Circuit, what wer the great advantages arryseing from the takeing of the Test, conforme to our instructions

Ther hes bein great indeavours used, efter the old maner, to disapoynt all the good effects that may be expected from this usefull Circuit; such as are either phanaticall or disaffected taking daylie great paines to keep those who did formerlie take the bond from compeiring nowe to produce it: to the end the number of rebells may continue still verie great. And therfor it is our humble opinion, that the Councill should allowe ws to expunge out of the porteous rolls, the names of such as we find, by the records of the Councill and Justice Court, to have taken the said bond, or to have bein absolved in either of these judicatories, tho not compeiring. As also, that we should not denunce them publictlie at the Marcat Croces, as others are to be who are to be contained in the printed lists. We lykeweyes offer to your Lordship and the Councill, that it is fitt that we be warranted to take caution, even from such as confesse they wer at the Rebellion, tho we ar obleidged, in the common course, to secure them: without this fewe or non will compeir. And such as offer themselves are not to be used with the same severitie as these who are brought in prisoners, especiallie since the Act of Parliament, ordaineing such as are slandered for treason to be imprisoned, seemes cheiflie to relate to those who are apprehendit; and this appeirs suitable to your former instructions relateing to intercomoning, which is a species of treason.

Some Passes are offered by pannalls, which mention not ther having taken the bond; and yet we all knowe that they wer only given to such as took the bond, nor hade the poor people any

other thing for ther securitie. And therfor we desyre to knowe howe fare these shall be sustained; and to be informed howe not only Councelours, but even the Magistrats of Edinburgh, wer warranted to give such Passes, tho it is our opinion they ought to be sustained, or else great numbers will be involved in the guilt.

We gett daylie, as we pass alonge, newe informations, of which we shall be carefull to make the best use that cane be. If your Lordship hes any other instructions for ws, they shall be carefullie observed and obeyed by,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and
most faithfull Servants and Friends,

GEO. MACKENZIE.

PERTH.¹

MAITLAND.²

JA. FOULIS.³

J. LOCKHART.⁴

DAVID BALFOUR.⁵

CI.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Windsor, June 7, 1683.

My Lord,—You uill hearitthe reseae a pakit from me which should haue gone by the last, but the post was gone befor it came to London. I nou send you the coppyes of the depositions and examenations takin be the Major and Aldermen of Neucastle, which Mr. Secretary Jenkins sent me yisterday, which will furder inform you of that affaer. The uhall originall papers shall be sent you verry shortly after my return to London, and that I haue meet

¹ Lord Justice-General.

² Lord Justice-Clerk.

³ Lord Colinton.

⁴ Lord Castlehill.

⁵ Sir David Balfour of Forret: a Lord of Session, 1674; a Lord of Justiciary, 1675.

with Mr. Secretary, uho is to take some nots of them for proced-
 inge aganst some persons hear who haue probably kept correspon-
 dence, and convoied letters betuixt the phanatiks hear and thos in
 Scotland. Yisterday letters near dispatched to the Duk of New-
 castle, orderinge the tuo prisoners, viz., Alexr, Pringill and Eduard
 Levingstone, to be sent to Scotland uithe a guard, under the com-
 mand of Coll. Struthers, who is to delyver them to any paerty your
 Lordship and the Councill sends to the Bourrde to reseave them;
 and they are appointed by letter to acquent you of the day and
 hour they will be ther, which your Lordship will tak caer the
 paerty from Scotland that is to reseave them exactly observe. By
 his Majesty's command, I have wrytin to Sir John Cohran, and his
 second sone, orderinge them to returne to Scotland to attend the
 dyet: thy are cited too befor the Justice Court. I sent the letter
 withe Sir Andrew Forrester on Monday last, but he was sayd to
 be then at Tibols: whither he hes yit got it or not I cannot tell.
 I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

CII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Windsor, 9th June, 1683.

May it please your Lordship,—Here is the King's letter to the
 Privy Councill, relating to the opinion of the Comissioners ap-
 pointed for the tryall and regulation of the Mint, conforme to their
 late letter to his Majesty upon that subject; and by the inclosed
 copie, your Lordship will perceive that it containes all that the
 Comissioners advised his Majesty to order the Councill to doe in
 that affaire: ther being also a short letter sent to my Lord Trea-

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surer, and my Lord Treasurer Deputt, authorising them to appoint collectors for receiving the bullion.

I doubt not but your Lordship has heard that in a common Councill of London, which was held this week, all acts and orders of that Councill, hitherto in force, which seemed to occasion any incroachment upon the royall prerogative, or did bear any thing tending to faction or sedition, are made voide and null: which is no small addition to his Majesty's satisfaction; and I hope it will not be long ere he shal be absolute master of the government of that Citty.

CIIL.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY, and the LORD ADVOCATE; on Circuit.

My Lord,—This first Justice Air at Strivling being nigh ended, it's fitt your Lordship, and such as are of the Councill with you, know, that albeit great endeavours was used to keep back persons of all ranks from taking the Test, wpon design to have so many declared fugitive as might still keep the counterey in disquiet: yet many of the gentry of very good quality, and abundance of the small heretors and commons, have taken the Test; and most of those too without any other advantage save that they might, (as they publickly declared,) witnes their oun loyalty, and be exemplary to others: so that the alacritie was equall to the numbers. Wee have likewise excused some few persons who, by the registers of Councill or Justice Court, wer found to have taken the bond or to have been absolved, who, by mistake or misinformation, had not compeared before us; but wee admitted of no excuse, for such against whom wee had any probable suspicion of guilt posterior to their takeing of the bond. Wee have likewise taken suretie, under considerable summes, for the appearance of those few who desired a tyme to consider upon the Test, for their ap-

pearance at Parliament dyets: so that the number of fugitives here will be very inconsiderable.

There is none to be executed here save one common fellow, who acknowledged he had been at the rebellion, and produced only a Certificat blank in the cristined name; quhich wee, haveing good reason to suspect concerned some other person of that sirname, referred to his oath, whether he truely signed the bond, or gave warrant to a nottar to signe for him. And he not onely refused to depone, for purging of suspicion, but obstinately, and after many intreaties, refused to acknowledge Bodwell Bridge to be a rebellion, or that the Archbishope of St. Andrews was unjustly murthered; quhich did so incence all the people against him, that advocats, and some of the very persons that wer cited as pannells, called out that he might goe to the knowledge off ane inqueest. And his Majestie's Advocat having represented the cace to the inqueest, who had heard the pannell's judiciall acknowledgement and expressions, [they] have found him guilty of high treason. And thus the people of these shyres where wee have been, may see that the justice of this Court is not rigorous, nor its clemencie contemptible. My Lord,

Wee are

Your Lordship's most affectionat and humble Servants,

GEO. MACKENZIE.

PERTH.

MAITLAND.

JA. FOULIS.

J. LOCKHART.

CIV.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY, and the LORD ADVOCATE:
on Circuit.

My Lord,—That pannell who wes yesternight found guilty, did this morning offer to tak the Test; wherwpon wee did meet and consider, whither a couurse being perscrived, the Test offered to him, and he, wpon his refusall, being found guilty, might thereafter free himself by taking the Test; or if only sutch as applyed for the Test, befor his being found guilty, could haue the benefite of it. And it wes our opinion that no man refusing it, and suffering himself to be therwpon found guilty by ane inquest, cowlde thereafter plead the benefite of the Test. And persewant to this opinion, wee did this morning, wpon the verdict of the inquest, ordaine him to be executed.

This being the first caise of this nature, and that ther is matter of prudence as weill as law in it wee did therfor delay the execution till Weddensday next at Glasgow, betuixt and which tym wee may heir your Lordship's advyce who ar ther. And it wes thocht the execution wold be more terrible at Glasgow then heir, and he will succeid to him who wes so villainously resscowed. The answeir will be expected by us befor wee pairt from this on Munday morning, since he is to be caried alongst with us prisoner.

Great numbers haue this day also taken the Test, and so the number of fugitives is again mutch lessened. And wee hope that this Justice-Aire hes so convinced them of ther danger and advantage, that wee haue good reasone to beleeeve that they will apply to these appoynted by the Councell, for to have the Test administrat to them (as we think they lawfully may, tho they be now denounced fugitives) the next week; his Majestie's Advocat haveing, in the close of this Air, represented to them the danger of being now fugitives, and to thir masters the irrecoverable hazard of

resetting of them; and that to so good purpose, that wee are fullie perswaded and convinced that it both alradie hes had, and furthir will have, verie good effects. Wee are,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most affectionat

Friends and humble Servants,

GEO. MACKENZIE.

MAITLAND.

JA. FOULIS.

J. LOCKHART.

DAVID BALFOUR.

My Lord Justice Generall haueing this day stayed till the pannell wes sentenced, he hes taken a step home, being to return to morrow morning: which is the reason he hes not subscriyved this letter.

CV.—From the LORD MAITLAND, Lord Justice Clerk.

May it please your Lordship,—I wrot fully to you this morning, which I hop your Lordship hath receaved befor this tyme. This morning the Lords called for the Verdict of the Assyse, upon reading of which, the pannell seeing himself found guilty, he fell on his knees and begged pardon for his blind zeale the night befor: and that he acknouledged the King's authority; that Bothwell Bridge was a rebellion; that the Archbishop's slaughter was a murder; that he wold take the Test so farr as it was consistent with the Protestant religion: then being prest by some that stood beheind him, he said he wold take it simply. This altered there Lordship's oppinion, for wee was all resolved to have appoynted his execution Monday morning at furthest; so he was condemned to dye at Glasgow on Wedensday nixt. Wee thocht ourselves

obliged by law to condemne him, notwithstanding his seeming repentance; but we allowed tyme for his execution out of duety to your Lordship and the Councell, that, wee having done our parts as to matter of law, your Lordship might have it befor yow, to give the Lords your advyce as to state prudence, which all of us will heartely obay.

This act of justice hath been so far from disheartening the people, that I have good ground to beleev it hath occasioned many to take the Test this morning that wold not have done it. There was one fellow this day indyted for murder; the Assyse returned the verdict not guilty. The poor fellow seeing so many on their knees to take the Test, begged he might take it also, to show his affection for the King's service, which was allowed. It is informed credibly, that even those that have been declared fugitive this day will all take the Test, befor this day seaven night, befor those appoynted by the Proclamation.

Thus wee have happily ended the first part of our work, and I hope there is a good platform laid for all the rest, which will be easier to the Lords. The Lords intend to goe from this, Monday morning by eight of the clock; so that I shall not have any occasion of troubling your Lordship till the Lords have done somewhat at Glasgow. From tyme to tyme yow shall hear all that passeth of consequence from,

May it please your Lordship,

Your most humble and most obliged Servant,

MAITLAND.

Sterling, 9th June, 1683, 7 at night.

I have forgot one matteriall circumstanc: this fellow, William Bogue, that was condemned, fell on his knees a second tyme, and

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acknowledged he was justly condemned or found guilty, and that his blood was on his own head.¹

For the Right Honorable the Earle of Aberdeen, Lord High Chancelour of Scotland.

CVI.—From SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Advocate.

My Lord,—Tho I am desyrous to hav your advice, which I assur yow I wil follow, yet I hav told my opinion to the Justices very freely; and Clavrose will writ to yow the reasons by which I sustaind it, and I will not trouble yow nor wrong him in repeating them.

I did this day represent the danger of being rebells, which they say has frighted both lairds and comons. I tak also all the pains I can to secur honest men, and terrifie rascalls of vhat quality soever; and beleev that the pains I took to mak prices easie, was of advantag to yow and the Government: and yet I hav mad Mr. Thomas Gordon's losses up another way, and legally too: yow know how much I was his friend, and the Duk knows more of it. And as to my self, I shall not see on doller in all this Circuit, tho it is lyk by sitting up and great heats to destroy mee.

¹ "One Boog, tennent in Auchinreoch, having been delated, and produced a testificat under Sir W[illiam] Paterson, Clerk of the Counsell's hand that he had tane the bond *debito tempore*; and yet refusing not to rise in arms heirafter, was coney-catched, and condemned to be hanged: And, to strick the more terror, sent before them to Glasgow, wher it was accordingly execut; and publik intimation was made in the Court, that Boog was not hanged for refusing the Test, (as the rumor was, put to fright others from compearing,) but for his being in the rebellion at Bothuel Bridge. The Justices would willingly have repreeved him, but they could not, but only the Privy Counsell:—yet they ware near as many Counsellors at Glasgow as might have made a *quorum* of the Privy Counsell; only they could not attempt it without the Chancelor's consent."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. 1. p 443.

CVII.—From Sir JOHN GRAHAME of Claverhouse.

Sterling, June the 9, 1683.

My Lord,—The Lords having thought fit to delay the execution of this man till they should know your Lordship's opinion, because of the newness of the thing and consequence, I would feall in my duty if, being on place, I did not give your Lordship my thoughts of it. Tho I need not repeat this man's story intyrlly, because you have received particular accounts from the Justices, yet I must mynd you of the heads of his cause. He was actually in the rebellion, continued in that state for four years, and now comes in with a false sham certificat to fool the Judges: for being desired to give his oath that he had taken the bond, he positively refused; being asked if Bothwell Bridge was a rebellion, refused to declare it so; or the Bishop's murder an murder; and positively refused, in face of the Court, the benefit of the King's Indemnity by taking the Test. Upon which the Judges, moved by the outcry of all the bystanders, as by their conviction of the wickedness of the man, referred the matter to the knowledge of an inquest, who brought him in guilty; after which, he begged to acknowledge his folly, and offered to take the Test with the old gloss, as far as it consisted with the Protestant religion, and the glorie of God; and after that was refused him, offered in end to take it any way. By all which, it clearly appears that he would do any thing to save his lyf; but nothing to be reconciled to the government.

Nor can it be thought any sourty for the government the taking of the Test by men after they are condemned; seeing all casuists agree that an oath imposed where the alternative is hanging can any ways be binding; and it is to be supposed, who refused it when they had the freedom of choice, and takes it after condemned, does it only because they think themselves not bound to keep it.

And the Proclamation seems to dessein favour only to those who

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offer volenterly, by these words: all uho aplay themselves; and that meetings be apointed for giving the Test by those intrusted, that all concerned may knou when and where: all which shoes cleerly it was desseined for people at liberty.

Then, my Lord, in point of prudence, if this be the method no man will com in to the Justice Air for to take the Test, but may contineu all his triks till the first of August, and speak treason in face of the Court and the people, if he be taken and condemned, and after nik them with taking the Test: which turns all in ridicull. For great clemency has and oght to be shoen to people that ar sincerely resolved to be reclaimed; but the King's Indemnity should not be forced on villains. All that I can hear of inconvenience is, that it may terify those in his circumstances to com in. I say there is not such ane other in all the Kingdom, that is, a comon man condemned: so that they can not be terified. It may be said that his caise may be mistaken, and it may deter all from coming in. Experience of this day answers that. Above twenty have taken the Test since he was condemned; and the teror of his usadge, as I am informed, is lyk to cause most com in that ar to-day declaired fugitives, of which the number, in four shyres, will not be much above a hondred. If this man should not be hanged, they would take advantadge that they have disapointed us by resceuing the other, and given us such apprehensions that we durst not venter on this.

I am as sorry to see a man day, even a whigue, as any of them selfs; but when on days justly for his owen faults, and may sawe a hondred to fall in the lyk, I have no scrupull.

I understand not that any of the forces and on of the Livet. Gen. should, for hunting people for only stealing kouses, leave the atending this service, where the King's interest and the peace of the contrey is so neerly concerned; for the tuo compagnies of foot laift this place to-day.

All the Justices doe their deuty francly and cheerfully. My

Lord Castilhill¹ and I have not yet differed in any point, and my Lord Advocat sustined this business vigourusly. I am impatient to be at Glascon, when we will have neu mater. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithfull and humble Servant,

J. GRAHAME.

CVIII.—From Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE, Lord Advocate.

My Lord,—As my zeale to the King's service and our principls brought mee here, so it oblidges mee to doe evry thing that may contribut to these ends. I hav discouragd all I can such as hav been fanaticall, and particularly Menstrie and others; bot our probation is very slender in these shyres: only I hop it will be better in the west, else I had returned to morrow, bot the Justices will not suffer mee.

I hope you will beleev mee vhen I tell yow that no man wishes yow better; nor could I wish anything to be helpt in you, sav that yow wold never be jealous of your friends, vho wold liv and dy with yow, and ar serving yow even vhen yow ar angry at them.

I am informd that the western shyres resolv to employ such only in their militia as hav been at Bothuell, pretending that they can get non else to tak the Test; and thus wee must arm our enimies.

¹ "10, *Aprilis*, 1683. [At Privy Council.] Another letter, that Castlehill be one of the Criminall Lords, in place of my Lord Nairne, whom the King thought fit to excuse in respect of his infirmity and age. This provoked the old man to reflect, that when he was lying in the Tower for the King, Castlehill was then one of Oliver Cromwell's pages and servants. And Nairne died within six weeks after this. Castlehill had been one of the Justices before, but was deprived in November, 1678, upon a caprice of my Lord Lauderdale, who said Castlehill could hang none without their own consent; and Harcous was then, by the Duchesse, put in his place."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i., p. 435.

I am as kynd as I can be to Mr. Banerman¹ and Mr. Thomas Gordon; and I thank your Lordship for the extraordinary kyndnesse to Colin,² who, I beleev, loves yow as well as hee does mee.

CIX.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 12th June, 83.

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Here is a letter from his Majestie to the Privy Councell, whereof you will know the contents by the inclosed copie. And now I have great and good news to tell your Lordship, that this forenoone, in the Court of King's Benche, ther was judgement pronounced against the Charter of London, which is declared to be voide; but the recording of the judgement is delayed untill his Majestie's pleasure therin shall be knowne, which may be very soone, the Councell being to meet at Hamton Court to morrow, cheifly upon this occasion.

God be thanked, wee have as great quiet here as your Lordship can wish. At my arrivall here last night from Windsor, I had the honour of your commands in that of the 5th instant; and called this morning for Mr. Gray, who conducted me to the place wher the Coach mentioned in your letter is to be seen; which indeed I

¹ "10 Aprilis, 1623. At Privy Counsel, ther is a letter from the King, procured by the Chancellor, that Mr. George Bannerman, Advocate, be adjoyned as his Majestie's Solicitor with Sir William Purvis, tho Sir William's gift boor to Sir William and his sone, and the longest liver of them two; and he adhered to his right, and the Treasurer syded him."—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i., p. 435.

² Colin Mackenzie, Advocate, brother of the Lord Advocate; afterwards (July, 1684), appointed conjunct Clerk of the Privy Council along with Sir William Paterson. Sir John Lauder, in his amusing Diary of legal gossip, records a *scene* between the two clerks. "4 Novembris, 1686. At Privy Councell, a debate fell in betuen the two clerks, Sir William Paterson and Mr. Colin Mackenzie, and *each of them was seizing upon the keyes* of the Chamber with the Records and Warrants. The quarrell was, tho they devided the profits, yet Sir William was putting in his man, Gourlay, conjunct with George Rae, without Mr. Colin's consent."—Historical Notices, vol. ii., p. 757.

think is a very large and fine coach, nothing short of the report that you had of it; but I find that he has bargained for it already by my Lord Maitland's order, as he writes himself by this post, at length to his Lordship. I am told that it is to be fitted in severall things, and particularly with a fine pair of harnishes; and that all when shipped will not exceed 100 lb. sterline.

Therafter I carried a skilfull coachmaker to view it, and he sayd that it is a very good penniworth if fitted up according to agreement. But the only thing he seemed affrayd of, is that it may prove too heavy for tuo horses to carry up the street of Edinburgh, especially through the straites of the Nether Bow; which he knowes very well, being a Scotsman. But if your Lordship has strong horses, I hope that wil be no great difficulty.¹

CX.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY, and the LORD ADVOCATE: on Circuit.

Glasgow, 13th June, 1683.

My Lord,—We wer waited on, at our enterie to the shyres of Dumbartoun and Clidsdale, by the greatest appeirance of the nobilitie and gentrie; and upon our entrie uithin the limits of Glasgowe, by the most numerous confluence of citizens that have ever bein sein here upon such occasions.

After calling the suit rolls, and the persons cited as pannalls and witnesses in generall, as the forme is, we proceedit first to the tryall of some of the commons, who all took the Test most

¹ It is amusing to find an incident,—which the worthy coachmaker, “who knew the straites of the Nether Bow very well, being a Scotsman,” thus prognosticated,—setting the political gossips of the time a shaking their heads. “It was remarked, as a bad omen, that the last winter his [Lord Aberdeen's] coach horses on day refused to draw him to the Parliament House, and by no whipping would stir so long as he was in it; but walked right enough when he came furth till he offered to goe in again, and then they sat up of new.”—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 131.

cheirfully. After which severall gentlemen took the Test also upon the same occasion, amongst whom wer severalls of verie considerable estates and influence, who did expresse such cheirfulnes and kindness to the King our sacred master, as gave ws great satisfaction who are the King's servants, and did breid great confusion amongst the King's enemies. The King's Advocat proceedit, eftir thir acts of clemencie, to forfait fyve in absence, to showe we wer in earnest.

This day also that fellowe who wes condemned for refusing to owne the bond which he alleadged he hade taken, and to acknowledge that the ryseing at Bothwel Bridge wes a rebellion, wes hanged in the Marcat Place of this city, and dyd adhering to his wicked principles, and pretending he wes a martyr; which justified the sentance even in this humourous shyre. And the bringing that criminall to dye here, is much approved by the King's faithfull subjects, because it filld the place of that villan who wes rescued, and did lett such as wes doubting here see, that those who contemned authoritie should not escape the danger of refuseing the King's mercy when it wes offered.

The King's advocat did, efter full examination of the matter of fact, give ane indytment to tuo ruffians who are apprehendit for the murder of David Murray, which will be provd, as we hope, fullie; but certainlie ther being at Bothwell, and at the burning of the Test at Lanerk, and ther calling the King a tyrrant, will be fully provd; and they are to dye to morrowe.

We have ordered the gallowes to stand, for the better instruction of the great numbers of rebells who are cited to appeir, befor this court. This is all that is yet don by,

Your Lordship's most affectionat and most humble Servants,

GEO. MACKENZIE.

PERTH.

MAITLAND.

JA. FOULIS.

J. LOCKHART.

DAVID BALFOUR.

CXI.—From Sir JOHN COCHRANE of OCHILTREE.

Right Honorable my Lord,—I have bein thus long silent without giving your Lordship account of the progresse of the intended plantation in Carolina, becaus of the uncertainty of its prosecution. We have not bein able to receave such satisfaction in the ammendment of the constitution as I could have wished ; bot the account I have receaved from our pilots, sent their to vieu the country, is so good, that I doubt not but ue shall carry on a considerable plantation, to the great advantadge of the nation. I have sein a description of the river Port Royal in ane exact map. It seems to be a very desirable place to plant upon. I shall order some of our people upon their return to wait upon your Lordship, and inform you of all things relating to that province ; that ue may not only have your Lordship's countenance and encouragement, but have you to share with us in the undertaking. This much I thought fitt to acquaint your Lordship with of my bussinesse heir.

And now give me leave to acquaint your Lordship that I am informed from Scotland that I am in Porteous Roll, and ane inditement of high treason preparing against me for ressetting rebels upon my land, or intercommuning or conversing with them. I wes at London in the tyme of the rebellion ; and so soon as I came home, I informed myself and found that ther wes non of my people that had bein in the rebellion, but such as had taken the benifitte of his Majestie's gracious Indemnity ; and for conversing with rebels, I am frei to give my oath that I never conversed with any that I understand to be in these circumstances. I can appeal to all men that knou me, and particularly to all the officers of the army ; that upon all occasions I have bein as active as any man to suppress all rebells, and particularly Cameron and his associats ; for wich I have frequently had thanks given me by his Royall Highnesse, so that I am amased to find my self suspected of things

of this nature. It troubleth me the more to meit with it at this tyme, when it may prove some hinderance to the prosecution of our intended plantation; and therfor I humbly beg the favor and justice of your Lordship to speek with Generall Dalzell, who is able to clear your Lordship of my innocence: that so I may obtean from your Lordship such just representations of my circumstances unto his Majestie and Royall Highnes as may preserve me in their good oppinion; without which it will be impossible for me to serve my country in the prosecution of this intended plantation. I am sure I neither have done, nor I hope shall ever doe, any thing that may give caus to your Lordship to disoun

Your most humble Servant,

JO. COCHRANE.

June 15, 1683.

For the Earle of Aberdeen,
Lord High Chancelour of Scotland.

CXII.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY : on Circuit.

Air, 19th June, 1683.

My Lord,—This morning, befor the calling of the rolls, very many considerable gentlemen compeird, and did, to demonstrat their loyaltie, and to be examplarie to others, tak the Test; amongst whom wer severalls who took the same without being in the Porteous Roll, or under the least suspition.

But the Proveist of Stranraer having offerd to take it, who was indyted for actuall rebellion, his Majestie's Advocat desyrd he might renunce his estate in favours of the King, and confesse his crime; for though the dyet was to be deserted against receipters upon ther taking the Test, and that the commons wer to have the benefit of the Test whither they wer guiltie of receipt or actuall

rebellion; yet heritors pursud for actuall rebellion wer only to be admitted to take it, provyding they wer content to renunce their heritage, and confesse the crime: and prest that, since this man scrupld, he might be allowd to insist against him presently for his life and fortune; especiallie since he was guiltie of having been att a Councell, wherin it was resolved the wholl toune should goe out to the rebellion; and he offerd to send his sone because he could not goe in respect of his age; and accordingly his sone and all that toune went to the rebellion. Whereupon wee orderd him to goe to prison, and to be processd; and he had been tryd if he had not, upon his knees, acknowledgd his guilt, and cravd God and the King pardon for it; and had also renuned and dispond his estate to the King. He is delyverd over to Collonell Grahame, who, according to his instructions, is to give him a saife conduct.

Wee are now taking the depositions of witneses, to the end the poor witneses, who came voluntarily for the King, may be dismissed without delay or expense; and may thereby be the willinger to appear againe when his Majestie shall need their testimonies. Wee have intimated also that, early the morrow, wee will receive the certificats of such as have taken the Test or Band, or ar absold by the Councell or Criminall Court, to the end they may be dismissed. And to morrow foirnoon his Majestie's Advocat will insist against such of the absents, against whom their is clear probation of having been in actuall rebellion. Wee have reason to hope the same successe here that we had in other shires.

Wee cannot but give your Lordship ane account of my Lord Advocat's cariage in his Majestie's service this day; who, although he hath all alonge in this circuit shewd, with great care, his usewall zeale for his master's interest, did outdoe himself in a very eloquent loyall discourse to the people, in presence of the Court: which, wee think, with great reason, had, and will have ex-

traordinarie good effects upon the hearts of both gentlemen and commons, in bringing them back to thair dutie. Wee ar,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most affectionat friends and humble Servants,

MAITLAND.

JA. FOULIS.

J. LOCKHART.

DAVID BALFOUR.

CXIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, June 21st, 1683.

My Lord,—This morninge the Dwke informed me of the late horrid plot discoverd hear, wharof he orderd me to acquent you as follows. When his Majesty uas last at Newmarcit, six bloody and barbarous villans desinged to murder his Majesty and R. Highness (whom God longe preserve) in ther coach, as they returned to this place; but the fire that hapned ther, oblidginge the King's returne to this place soner than he intended, defeated the attempt.

Then, upon notice that the Kinge intended a voage to sea, a new atempt uas resolved; but the Kinge's delaying of that voage did also disapoint the second designe.

And now, by the mercy of God, on of the villans is seased, who does confes the matter, and uill, I houp, mak good discoverys. Severalls ar fled and absconeded, but diligence is used for apprehending of them. Ther is on Vest, a laweier hear, uho hes bene on the plote; and a gunsmithe declared that, about that tym, he bespok of him 30 or 40 paer of pistols, which uear not delyverd to him till uithin this fortnight or thre weeks. As furder discovers ar made in this matter, your Lordship shall be acquented by,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

CXIV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 26th June, 83.

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Last night the Queen, Duke, Duchesse, and Lady Anne, and this morning his Majestie arrived here from Windsor, with purpose not to remove for some dayes. And ther is all the reason imaginable for their stay, to make strict enquiry into one of the most damnable and hellish conspiracies that ever was in the world; having been designed not only for the horrid and most barbarous murder of his Majestie and his Royall Highnes, but also for the utter overturning of the Government both in Church and State.

It appeares dayly more and more formidable, ther having been many persons of great quality engaged in it. Last night Algernon Sidney, (a great republican, and an avowed enemy, both to monarchy in generall, and the Royal Family in particular, not only before, but even likewise since his Majestie's most happy restauration,) who is brother to the Earle of Leicester, was comitted a prisoner to the Tower; as was, this afternoone, the Lord Russell, (eldest son to the Earle of Bedford,) both for high treason in their accession to this diabolicall contrivance. Wee are told that warrants are given out for apprehending severall other persons of great quality, whereof are named the Duke of Monmouth, the Earle of Essex, the Earle of Macklesfeild, (formerly Lord Gerard,) with his son the Lord Brandon, the Lord Gray, and the Lord Stamford: of the certainty of which your Lordship may expect a further account as soon as I can send it.

In the meanwhile, ther is one thing for which I am very heartily sorry, that some of our cuntrymen wil be found to have been deeply engaged in this hellish contrivance, particularly one Ferguson, (borne near Aberdein,) a phanatick preacher, who has been near thirty

yeares in this country, where he learned those diabolicall principles and practises ; which (God be thanked) have been, and ever wil be, abhorred (I hope) in that loyall as well as truely learned University.

Here is a note of the fines imposed this day in the Court of King's Benche upon the London ryoters, mentioned in some of my former letters ; which, that your Lordship may the better understand, be pleased to know that every merk sterline is thirtein shillings and four pence of the same money

Yesterday I had the honour of your commands in that of the 19th instant, which I did communicat to Mr. Gray, who has not only bought the coach, (as I told your Lordship before,) but also has it now almost finished. Indeed it looks (in my opinion) very well, and not gawdie ; nor does he (who has more skill than I can pretend to in horse) doubt but a pair of good ordinary coach horses will easily carry it up the street with four persons in it, which is all that it will hold. So he seemes resolved to send it downe ; (according to my Lord Maitland's order to him ;) and if your Lordship does not think it fitt for your purpose, he doubts not but he will either there or here gett a good deale more for it than it cost here. I carried the coachmaker againe to see it, who likes it very well, and sayes that it is still a very good penniworth ; only he knowes not what kind of horses your Lordship has to draw it ; which Mr. Gray thinks truely can be done by such a pair as is not at all extraordinary.

A Note of the Fynes of the Ryoters.

	Sterline.
The Lord Gray	1000 merks
Freeman a cheesemonger	300 „
Jehill Hubid	200 „
Jenks	200 „
Kye	100 „

Bethell	. . . . .	1000 merks
Player	. . . . .	500 "
Deagle	. . . . .	400 "
Pilkington	. . . . .	500 pounds
Shute	. . . . .	1000 merks
Cornish	. . . . .	1000 "
Goodenough	. . . . .	500 "
Vickham	. . . . .	100 "
Svinock	. . . . .	500 "

CXV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, June 26th, 1683.

My Lord,—This morninge, at the Dwk's levie, Lord Privie Seall tould him that Lord Keper and the rest of the Ministers uer desyrus to spek to me; but they uer informed of my beinge gone to Windsor. But haueinge returned after I uas half uay, upon notice of the King's comeinge, the Dwk bid me goe to them, beinge then at the Secretary's office. They tould me a letter uas directed from Holland to the Mr. of Balmerino, which they haud intercepted, but nothings of any importance contaend in it. Ther is ane other to a mertchand hear all ciper, which thy can mak nothings off. That thy desyrd of me uas to acquent your Lordship, that on of the late plotters, by name Goodanufe, uho uas under-shriff in Pilkington's tyme, is sayd to be gone to Scotland, and so to mak his escape to forang cuntrys, or to giukke ther. Therfor, pray lett all means be used to discover iff any strangers from Ingland cam into any place in Scotland, and lett them be seased, till advertizment be giuen of it hear, and that it be clirely discoverd uhat thy are; for it is verry probable that some of this helishe plottinge criwe may goe ther.

Ther was also a veshill that tucthed hear about a week or ten day agoe, wharin uer ten or twelve passingers; and it's informd

shoe was lodind with the armes; but she was gone befor ather the ship, or any person in hir could be seased. It is desyrd your Lordship uill caus tak notice iff any sutch ship arryve in any port in Scotland, that shoe may be seased, and advertisment ginen of it. I could gett no particular marks, but this account in generall, which accordingly I transmit to you.

The Kinge and his Ministers haue bene all this morninge examening Coll. Rumsay, Major Wyldman, and West, the lawer. Rumsay seems to be verry penitent, and it's hoped uill tell all he knowes; but it must be a work of tyme to discover the bottome of this helishe plote.

Ther hes certinly bene correspondence betuixt the ploters hear, and som in Scotland, after consideringe of that letter directed to Alex. Pringill, which is Earlistoune, wharof I sent you the principall; but now I send you inclosed a coppye of it, which I had by me. Observe whar it is sayd that after thy have dispatched the old *Cotin Stufe*, thy uil then thinke of what new commodetys will be best, or sutch words. The old *Cotine Stufte* is certinly the Kinge, for C. S. begins the two words; and the letter is wrytin just befor that cursed atempt should haue bene made at his Majesty's coming from Newmarkit. The leter is signed only thus, Jo. N.; now it is certine Earlestoune knows the wryter, and the wholl meninge of the letter; and iff he uill be ingenious can tell all. But the examinatione of him on this letter uould only be betuixt your Lordship and him, that it tak not wynd, for otheruays the uryter of it, who certinly lives hear, uill be gone, and the desinge mared. As mutch dispatch uould be made in this as possible, and transmitted hear for the Kinge and Dwk's informatione.

Sir John Cohrane, as is said, is found to haue a hand in this plote some uays, which is informed by som of them, but I uill not tutch this to any but your self.

It's lyk the Dwk uill write more of it to you, and of the part

ticulars of the plote it self. I houp to give a more full account by the next.

I houp the discovery of this, being so improved as it may and ought, uill be of as good advantadge to the Kinge and his Government, and securinge of his Monarchy, as any thinge that hapned sins his happy restoratione. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY

Sins urytinge the former part of my letter, the Lord Rusill was examined, and sent to the Toure. The Dwk of Monmouthe is sent for, but is out of the uay. Earle Makilfild is also sent for, and his sone, the Lord Brandonejerrad. Just now, it being near twelve a clok at night, I left the Lord Gray under examination before his Majesty. This afternoon Sir Huvghes Campble of Sesnoke, and his sone Sir George Campbell, and Baeliye of Jerviswood, uear seased. I uas cald, for thy loked lyk deathe when thy saw me. Thy ar to be sent to me to be examind. Mean whyll, it is desyrd that whatever informations you have, or can inform aganst them, may be sent up withe all possible speed. I haue not tym, and am so weary, that I am able to uryt no mor this post.

CXVI.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, June 30, 1683.

My Lord,—Haueinge this eveninge rede to his Majesty som part of Earlestone's letter or confessione directed to your Lordship, and by you sent to his Royall Highnes, and particularly that paert of it relatinge to the *Bussill*, as he tearms it, that uas intended hear, his Majesty finds it necessarye, and hes commanded me to uryt to your Lordship, that Earlestone be particularly examined

on all the parts and meaninge of that letter, singed by Jo. N.; and who that Noble is, he sayes, was the wryter of it; what his calinge or profesione; the particular place whar he liues; and if he goes by any other name then Noble; and of all other particular circumstances relatinge to him or the letter; and that it be emediatly done, and then the principall letter it self, uithe the examinations sent up hear, seinge ther will be use of it: and if you nede it ther afteruards, it uill be returned to you. This requyrs dispatch, which your Lordship will please to hastin so sone as possibly you can.

The inclosed information beinge brought to Mr. Secretary Jenkins, was red in his Majesty's presence; and all the persons naemed in it beinge sayd to be Scotchmen, the Kinge hes commanded me to send it to your Lordship, that you may use all means to apprehend them at ther cominge to that cuntry. Whither thy uill take the Berwicke or Carlill rode, or any other mor privat uay, is uncertain; but wee judge thy uill tak the west rode: however, all means would be used, and the uays layed, that thy may be seased iff possible. This is all I haue in command at present to be imparted to you by,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

CXVII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORRAY.

Whythall, July 3rd, 1683.

My Lord,—Last post brought me the honor of yours of the 26th of Junij. Sins my last, severals of the bloody conspirators haue bene seased, and this morninge six of them in Essex, uho ar not yit brought to tounne. Wee haue yit no account of D. Monmouth, Lord Gray, Sir Thomas Armstronge, or Fergusone.

The Kinge hes sent to Lord Russill and Mr. Trencher, to acquent them that to morrow sevenight thy are to be tryed, the evidence beinge clire aganst them.

Yisterday ther uas ane other letter of the late E. Argyle intercepted, all in cipher. All means is usinge to discipher that and all the former, wharof you shall haue an account as sone as it comes to my knowlig.

Public thanksgiueinge uill be made for his Majesty's and R. Highnes' delyverance, but the Kinge hes not yit spokine of the tyme. I am,

My Lord,
Your most humble and fathfull Servant,
MORRAY.

CXVIII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 3rd July, 83.

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—The last post brought to me the honour of yours of the 26th June, bearing your sense and abhorrence of this hellish phanatic plott, of which the particular contrivances doe dayly more and more appear by wonderful discoveries: For which his Majestie is resolved to appoint a generall thanksgiving to God Almighty, for this his unestimable mercy to the Royall Family and these Kingdomes; as his Majestie was pleased to declare yesterday to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councill of London, at their presenting the inclosed most loyall and dutifull addresse to his Majestie in the Banquetting House.

The Lord Russell and Mr. Trencher had notice yesterday to prepare themselves for their tryalls to morrow sennight, being the 11th instant; and it is not doubted but some others wil be tryed soone thereafter, if not the same day, at the Old Baily, in the ordinary way, without any speciall commission.

CXIX.—From Sir JOHN GRAHAME of CLAVERHOUSE.

My Lord,—In obedience to the order I received from your Lordship, I have commanded forty dragoons to the Langom, which is the heart of the Deuk of Monmouth's interest; and twenty there are at Anan. My troop lays at Moffet, and a pair of Captain Strachan's troop at Dumfries, to cape what may escape the two advanced posts. They have orders conform to the proclamation. On this hand we have sent out three parties of ten horses a piece, who have orders to bate along the Borders, and correspond with the parties of Langom and Coll. Struthers on the other side. So soon as the Lords are gone, all the troupes here shall march to different posts close on the border.

All the commons here have given obedience, and most of the gentry, save Hardens, Idington, Ridell, who will stand out, with some few small heritors. Hume of Basington is flaid. My Lord Yester, for to give good example to others, took the Test before the Court yesterday, and so did Sir Francis Scot, and several other gentlemen. I think it will do no great prejudice though two or three of the rich lairds stand out.

I am glad to hear that the conspiracy is likely to be so well discovered, and that the King resolves so suddenly and vigorously to bring to punishment the wicked authors of it. We hear from people comes from the other side, that great diligence is doing there for search of those traitors. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and faithful Servant,

J. GRAHAME

Gaidbrogh, June the 5th, 1683.¹

¹ There seems no doubt but that, by a slip of the pen, *June* has been written here instead of *July*.

Since the writing of this, I am told yong Harden will take the Test.

For the Earle of Aberdeen,
Lord High Chancelour of Scotland

CXX.—From the LORDS of JUSTICIARY : on Circuit.

Jedburgh, 5th July, at one of the clock
afternoon, 1683.

My Lord,—Monday last we parted from Dumfreis, attended by the gentlemen and frieholders of that shyre, and stewartrie of Kirkcudbright; and were mett on the march of Annandale by the Earle of Annandale, and all the gentlemen and frieholders of that stewartrie, who conveyed us to the march of Roxburghshyre; wher we were receaved by the Laird of Graden, and such a number of the shyre as we had ordered, and by the Laird of Meldrum at the head of his troupe. That night we lay in the toun of Langholme. The next day the whole shyre of Roxburgh mett us in a great body of horse near to Hawick. Near to this town we were mett by the Lord Yester, and the gentlemen and frieholders of the shyre of Peebles, and afterwards by the Earle of Hume, with the gentlemen and frieholders of Bervickshyre, and Bailliarie of Lauderdale, whilk made up a great bodie of horse. We were also mett by the Laird of Hayning and the gentlemen of the Forrest; so that our entrie to this place wes also noble and splendid as any place elsewhere we have been.

Efter sermon we called the suit rolls, and adjourned the Court till Wednesday at tuo of the clock in the afternoone.

Tuesday's night and Wednesday forenoone we spent in speaking with most of the gentlemen and frieholders answerable to

this Justice Air and imploying severall persons to deal with them, to give a demonstration of their loyaltie. The Earle of Hume, the Lords Cranstoun and Jedburgh, the Lairds of Blackbarrony, Stenhope, Cockburne, and Kaimes, with severall other gentlemen, were very instrumentall in the King's service.

Wednesday in the forenoon we took precognition of the witnesses in the cases of some gentlemen that were to be befor us, and particularlie we examined the case of the Laird of Drumelziar; against whom we found nothing proven, and that ther was no ground for the dilatione against him: so we may justlie reckon him amongst the volunteirs that took the Test. We found that our endeavours, and those of the noblemen and gentlemen we have named, had the same or rather better success then we had any wher else.

A litle after tuo of the clock we went to the Court; wher after the Justice Clerk at our desyre had spoke severall things suitable to the present occasione, and particularlie had prest and made use of the present horrid conspiracie against the lives of his sacred Majestie, and his Royall Highnes, as the great argument to persuade not only those who wer indyted, but also all other gentlemen present to give a testimonie of ther loyaltie and zeal to the King's service: we found that this method had good effects; for a far greater number of gentlemen of qualitie and condition then we expected came voluntarlie and took the Test, (the Lord Cranstoun being the first person,) besyds a good number of other considerable gentlemen that were indyted. Ther was fifty-four of the first sort, and threttie-fyve of the other. It wes great satisfaction to us to sie it may be the greatest number of men of that qualitie, so pressing and zealous to show ther forwardnes in the King's service, that we have found any wher in this Circuit.

We discust the Portuous Roll of the shyres of Bervick, Peebles, and Selkraig, wher we found great obedience in the few commons and others that wer indyted befor us; being to imploy this fore-

noone in precognition and takeing measures in what may be befor us in the shyre of Roxburgh this afternoon. And we have good ground to beleave that the good example given yesterday, with the firmness that the people have observed in our methods, will occasion severall gentlemen of qualitie to take the Test this afternoon.

Wee cannot omitt giving your Lordship ane account that those gentlemen intrusted with the manadgment of his Majestie's service in these shyres, and with us, have been very exact and diligent in ther respective trusts, such as the Lairds of Meldrum, Hayning, Graden, and Blindlie ; as also, Mr. Colin M'Kenzie and Mr. George Bannerman.

Upon Saturday morning your Lordship shall have a full account of this day and the morrow's proceedings, from,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most affectionat Freinds and humble Servants,

MAITLAND.

JA. FOULIS.

J. LOCKHART.

DAVID BALFOUR.

CXXI.—From the LORD MAITLAND, Lord Justice Clerk.

May it please your Lordship,—Yesterday, in the afternoon, after that my Lord Yester and some others had taken the Test, I told the pannels in Roxburrough shyre that the Lords wer now resolved to putt the law in execution against them ; and then I caused the fifteen assysers to be sworne. This alarmed them all, and had very good effects ; for by that they did see wee wer in earnest.

Your Lordship hath a full account of all our proceedings, which I need not repeat. There was a litle caball heir, but it is broken quite. I find by the Earle of Home, who spoke with Sir William Scott befor he went away, that he was begining to consider his

danger; and told his Lordship that he hoped he wold satisfy the Councell when he came to Edinburgh. This I know off him, that he was very desyrous his sone should take the Test.

I am overjoyed to find by your Lordship's letter, that yow are pleased with my cariage in this Circuit Court. I hope I have many wittnesses of my fidelity and zeale, although I am very sensible of my weaknes and want of skill. I trust very much to your Lordship's favourable representation of me to his Majesty and his Royall Highnesse.

All the Lords are extreemly satisfyed with the good service Meldrum hath done the King, by his diligence in executing his commission from the Councell in this country; and they have desyred me earnestly to recomend him to your Lordship's favour.

I have not tyme to give yow ane account of Mr. Gordon's¹ good service to his Majesty, till I have the honor to wait upon your Lordship, which I hope shall be Monday in the evening. The Lords intend to goe from this Monday's morning, befor six a clock. I am,

May it please your Lordship,
Your most humble and most obliged Servant,

MAITLAND.

Jedburgh, 6th of July, xi. at night, 1683.

CXXII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 7th July, 83.

Saterday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Yesterday wee had the news of six or seaven men being taken in Yorkshire, who, before the dis-

¹ “ Mr. Thomas Gordon, the Clerk, for acts of caution and otherwayes, got much money, and took the manadgement of the Court mainly upon him, understanding its forms better than any of the Judges ther, and being supported with the Chancelor's favour.”—Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. i. p. 446.

covery of the damnable plott, were seen at and about the toune of Waire, (tuenty miles distant from this place,) to travell with packs as Scots pedlars; but, after the discovery, were seen rideing through the same towne with very good horses and armes, goeing northward. Ther is a minister with them, but wee cannot learne who he or they may be, untill they shal be brought up; for they doe not tell their true names. Ther was also news sent yesterday from Exeter of Rombald's being taken there, who is one of those mentioned in the first proclamation, and is appointed to be brought hither with a strong guard. Wee have now notice of the Lord Gray, with his sister-in-law, being arrived in France, but it's hoped that he may be sent back from thence in case he can be found out; as very probable he may be, with such a consort. Ther scarcely passes a day in which ther is not a new discovery made of persons engaged in, or at least privy to the hellish conspiracy; so that the number of those who are to be tryed is like to be considerable. In the mean while, the tryall of the Lord Russell and some others, which was appointed to be on Wensday next, is putt off till the next day, being the 12th instant; soon after which, I doubt not but your Lordship will hear of their conviction and execution, ther being unquestionable evidences against them; and I am most confident the King will pardon none that wil be found guilty.

Just now, I hear a report of the Duke of Monmouth and some others being taken in some place of the coast towards Ireland; but this wants a confirmation; so your Lordship may be pleased to suspend your beleife therof untill you shall receive the letters by the next post.

CXXIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, July 7, 1683.

My Lord,—Yours of the 30th of June I reseaved. I haue also seene what your Lordship sent to the Dwk of Earleston's anssuers, but I houp he will be now interrogat on other points. Two days agoe, on of the chife conspirators was apprehended in the cuntry; and by the accounts the Kinge hes had, wee judge it to be that bloody villan Rumble, who was ane officer in Cromwel's army, and at whos hous the attempt was to be made on the Kinge as he came from Newmarket. The other six who wear at Varr, and wharof I sent you a copy of the information that Mr. Secretary Jenkins reseaved of it ar seased in Yorkshyr; on of them being in a person's habit, who some houp may proue to be Fergusone: a most pernicious villan, and diply instrumentall in this horrid conspiracy. Ther is ane order issued for seasinge Robine Murray of Tipermur, and Mr. Robert Maerrin; but this would be tould to no body least it may tak wynd, and notice of it sent hear. I am,

My Lord,

Your most fathefull humble Servant,

MORRAY.

CXXIV.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.

Lon., July the 12th, 83.

My Lord,—Yesterday I receavd the Privy Councill's letter to his Majestie, with which he was very well satisfyd. By his R. H.'s order I deliverd to one of the Clearks of the Councill here the originall letter from Jo. N. to Earleston, with his examination of 5th of this month, as also two letters of Jereswood's hand witting. His Majestie has orderd the Lords of the Justiciary not to proceed against the E. of Bradalban till further order, and all legall dilli-

gence alreadie usd be null. The grand jury has found the bills against all the traitors, and to morrow the chief of them will be tryd.

Having had so many proofs of your Lordship's favour, I cannot doubt but you continue it, in showing your kindnesse to my oncle, on whom his Majestie has bestowed the place of muster-master of the forces, I am sure he will be very ready to serve you in every thing, as well as,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

CXXV.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 21st July, 83.

Saterday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Here is a letter from his Majestie to the Councell, ordering a new Proclamation to be issued, for the further continuance of the adjournment of the Parliament to the sixth day of December next; which should have been sent downe sooner, but that it seemes the Diet that was last appointed (viz, the 10th instant) was forgotten both there and here; and we did not minde it, because the advice of adjournements came constantly hitherto from thence in due time, with notice of the time to which the new adjournement ought to be made. For my own parte, I never heard it mentioned before yesterday in the evening. However, I hope ther is no hurt in passing the day, seing none of the members were at the trouble and charge of coming to Edinburgh upon that account,

Yesterday Walcott, Rouse, and Hone were drawne, hangd, and quartered at Tyburne, who seemed to die penetents; but so did

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not the Lord Russell, who was this forenoon beheaded in Lincoln's Inne Feilds, and made no speech at all, but delivered a written paper to Mr. Shireff North, as his last words; with which he came to the King immediatly after the execution. And his Majestie was highly displeased with it, being rather a surly lybell than any thing like to an engenuous and Christian confession of his black crimes: which shoves that he was resolved to die as he lived, a most undutifull and disloyall subject; but he has now gott some parte of his punishment: which I wish may speedily overtake all the King's and Duke's enemies, who will not heartily repent ther former treasonable designes and practises, and ever continue loyall and dutifull to his Majestie and his Royall Highnes.

Wee are told that the King and the whole Court will, in few dayes, returne to Windsor; and that Prince George (who truly deserves to be, as he is, highly esteemed here) will soon thereafter be married to the Lady Anne.

CXXVI.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.

Lon., July the 21st, 83.

My Lord,—Tho I have nothing to communicate to you of any busnesse, yet I would not be too long without renewing the assurances of my most reall service to you. All honest men are mightily pleas'd with the happy successe of the Justice Aires, which is entirely to be attributed to your Lordship's prudence; and I have not been wanting to give the praise to whom it is due.

The Common Councill of London have agreed to submitt to his Majestie's will, and I need not tell you of what importance it is to the security and greatnesse of the Crown. By this means they have sav'd their common good, which, upon the forfaulture, would, by law, have reverted to the heirs of the donors.

Yesterday their was a discovery made of a most execrable de-

signe of murdring the King and the Duke, as they came from Newmarkett in March last. I doe not yet know the particulars. I can only tell you this much, which I had from the Duke this morning, that the traitors were to lye in waite for his Majestie at the house of one Rumbull, who had been a captain in Cromwell's army, which is just on the road betwixt Hogsden and Bishop Stafford; but the fire which happnd at Newmarkett, occasiond his Majestie's returne a week sooner then he intended, so that their horrid designe was happily prevented. They have been consulting how they could intercept his Majestie in the way from Hampton Court to Windsor. The discoverer is said to be a substantiall cittizen, whose name is not yet known. One of the conspirators is takin, and has confessed; the others are fledd, amongst whom I hear of one West a lawyer, Goodenough, that was under-sherriff to Bethell and Pilkington, and one Nelthrope.

My Lord Register has givin me ane account of your Lordship's kindnesse to me, in recommending me to the Duke. His R. Hs. has not taken any notice of it to me; bot, however, tho it should not succeed, I shall consider it as no lesse obligation to,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

CXXVII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Jully 24, 1683.

My Lord,—I haue bene ill of a feaver thes ten days past, which was the resone of my silence this whyll past.

Yours, dated the 5th instant, desyred me to hast doune the letter for ajurninge the Parliament; but the day, (which was the 16th,) beinge elapsed befor that letter came to hand, you could not expecte it so tymly as need had bene. This morninge his R.

Highnes spoke to me of it, and tould me that your Lordship had wrytin to him about it befor his cominge from Windsor; but the discovery of the conspiracy interveninge, he had bothe forgot the letter and the thinge. I did also mynd him of it some weeks befor that, but it was still put off. And now he says you wryt to him that the Parliament, for want of the letter to ajurne it, is dissolved. I can not say what may be the law of Scotland in that cace: but hear, nothinge can dissolve a Parlament but the Kinge himself, or a commision granted by him, or proclamations. And severall Lords, viz., D. Bukingam, E. Shaftsbury, and others, wear sent to the tower for urginge the contraery; and it is thought hear that the Parlament is not dissolved, notwithstandinge that the letter came not so tymly. But your Lordship will consider the pointe seriously, and send the Dwke your oppinion of it what is fitt to be done in the matter.

I am able to wryt littill, not beinge yit fully recoverd, but am unchangably,

My Lord,
Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

CXXVIII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Jully 28th, 1683.

My Lord—Docter Burnit hes bene severall tymes befor the Council. He is charged uithe wrytinge and contryfinge the late Lord Russil's speetch, which is indeed rather a lybell; but what can be made out will not amont to any thinge hear by the law of England. Bothe the Kinge and Dwke would faen be ride of him from this place; and therfor desyrs that you uill consider, iff it be proued that he con-

tryved and wrot that speetch, iff it will not bringe him under the Acte of Parlament of Lesinge Making; or iff you can think of any other uay to fetch him from this, by process or otheruays, it would be verry acceptable service. Besitch your Lordship lett me know, so sone as conveniently you can, uhat may be done in this matter.

The Dwk tould me this morning that E. Sunderland had a letter from Holland, showinge that Sir James Dalrimple of Stare haud sent on to Scotland, and sat up all night makinge his dispatches. The letter bears the marks of the persone, which E. Sunderland gaue to E. Middleton; and he uill certinly wryt of it to you particularly. I uent this morninge to his hous, but could not meet uithe him, els I had giuen you a more full account of the matter. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

Pray kepe this as privat as possible.

Princ George and Lady Anne ar this night married.

CXXIX.—From JOHN, BISHOP of EDINBURGH.

August 7th, 83.

May it please your Lordship,—Not being able to come abroad this night, I beg leaue to pardon me by these, to represent to your Lordship that, as I am informd poor Major Jonston will not live long, and since you know my circumstances, I could be glad, since I live in this place, to haue on of the officers in the companie of guards here, to whom I might trust myself and concerns; and therfor, if your Lordship will allow me, I would recomend George Hemsheid, who wes baylie deput of Dalkeith, and a servand to and sojor under E. Dalhousie, for the vacancie; and if your Lord-

ship sall approve of it, I think the Provost and Councill would grant it. I leaue this motion, with all submission, to your Lordship's favor, and am,

Your Lordship's most humble faithfull Servand,

JO. EDINBURGEN.

The yong man is of true loyall honest principles, and of an active temper, and is somewhat related to me; but his relation, wer it never so neer, sall not move me to pitch on anie unfitt person for the King's service.

CXXX.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.

Windsor, August the 14th, 83.

My Lord,—His Majestie has commanded me to acquaint your Lordship, that notwithstanding that the Duke of Balcleugh's Eschett is false to him, yet it is his intention that the Duchesse of Balcleugh should enjoy her estate. I send here inclosed her memoriall, with a draught of a letter, which his Majestie desires your Lordship would consider, and make what alterations in it you thinke fitt, or propose some other way, if you judge it more proper for his Majestie's service, and the said Duchesse's interest.

I send you too another letter from one of the Court messengers to Mr. Secretary Jenkins, that your Lordship may give his R. Hs. an account of what can be laid to their charge in Scotland, who are mentiond therein. I have not been at London since, so that I cannot certainly informe you who they are; but I guesse [one] to be Roallan's son.

Ther is no news stirring here. The Court is to remove from

hence to Winchester the 29th, and to continue there three weekes, wher I shall be to receave your commands. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

For your Lordship.

CXXXI.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 14th August, 83.

Tuesday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Yesterday I had the honour of yours of the 7th instant, (for which I returne most humble and hearty thanks,) and doe assure your Lordship that I look upon your acceptance of any small performances that I am capable of, to be too great a reward of my service in anything that may tend to your satisfaction.

It is now about a week agoe that I sent downe the Laird of Drum's Signature under cover to Bannockburne, with a letter to the Exchequer, as ample in all things as he desired, excepting only the patronage of the kirk of Peterculter; which his R. H. did not think fitt to procure for severall reasons, and so was pleased to order the deleting thereof out of the Signature.

The King, Duke, and Prince (with the whole Court) will goe the 29th instant from Windsor to Winchester, where they will stay a fortnight or three weeks at the haulking, and to see horse races, if the weather proves good. The Earle of Dunbartan came yesterday from Windsor, after receiving the King's and Duke's comands, in order to his goeing with a complement of condolance to the French King, upon occasion of the death of his Queen.

Wee are now told for certaine, that Carstaires is the person who was lately taken in Tenterden in Kent, albeit I doe not hear that he is as yet brought up hither; but doubtles he wil be in very few

dayes. In the meantime, my Lord Keeper was pleased to tell me at Windsor last Saturday at night, that it would be well to get notice from thence of all things that were to have been layd to his charge in Scotland, when he was soe long a prisoner in the Castle of Edinburgh; and whether he undertook banishment upon himselfe out of the three kingdomes? or if only out of Scotland? Whereof, if your Lordship will be pleased to order some person there to send me an account, I will acquaint him (or any other you think fitt) with it.

Since the writing hereof, I was comanded to waite on my Lord Keeper, the Duke of Ormond, the Marquis of Hallifax, and Mr. Secretary Jenkins, to hear the examinations of young Roallen, William Fairly, and John Crawford, who came up hither in company with Sir Hugh and Sir George Campbells, and were taken upon suspicion, lying in a private place near Morfeilda. The old Laird of Roallen is not taken; but the other three doe not give such a good account of their busines, in coming hither, as is pleasing to their Lordships. And therfor they comanded me to write this night to your Lordship and my Lord Treasurer, to know whether any thing is to be layd to their charge in Scotland; to the end that, if the law can not reach them here, they may be sent with some other Scottsmen, who are like to be ordered to goe down to be tryed there.

Carstaires also was examined, (having been brought up this day from Kent,) who stifly denyes his knowing any thing of the plott; and positively sayes that when he was sett at liberty out of the Castle of Edinburgh, he was not tyed under any condition of banishment out of Scotland.

The Scottsman called Gibson (whose examination, when he was taken in Yorkshire, I sent to your Lordship some weeks agoe) was examined this night; who is a pitifull, silly, insignificant fellow, and will hardly now confesse what was in his former examination, save that he was at the riseing at Bothwell Bridge.

CXXXII.—From CHARLES, EARL of MIDDLETON.

Winchester, Sep. the 5th, 83.

My Lord,—I am to acknowledge the honnour of two of your Lordship's letters. I delayd answring the first till I could give you ane account of his Majestie's pleasure concerning the time of calling a new parliament; but the removal of the Court, and the diversions of this place, putt a stopp to all businesse at present: which is not very materiall as to this matter; for it appears by your Lordship's, that it is not very pressing. Since I came hither I receavd your second, concerning the Duchesse of Balcleugh's affaire, with all the papers relating to it. I shall communicat them to Sir Stephen Fox, her trustee. I askd his R. Hs. what was to be done upon the Councill's last letters. He told me ther could be nothing done now, but that he would consider of it when he went to London, which will not be till the 22nd of this month. However, I shall stay here, and if I have the honnor of your Lordship's commands, they shall be ponctually obeyd by,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and most obedient Servant,

MIDDLETON.

CXXXII.—From JAMES, EARL of PERTH.

Drummond, 8th Sept., 83.

My Lord,—Tho I take no great plesure in medleing with what is none of my concern, yet I cannot refuse to give your Lordship an information in a case that may be of use to a poor ruind incorporation; which, without your Lordship protect and assist them, cannot miss of being entirly ruind. The Toune of Stirling is so lou, that really it is almost beggard; and it is in all apearance

merely occasioned by one who is endeavoring to get himself again into circumstances by which he may entirely perfect what he has so luckily (for his design) begun. He was long their Provost, and all the while he was so, run them every year deeper into debt. He has been out these two years past; and now he studies to get back to his old place, to oppress the honestest of the Magistrates, and enrich himself and his relations at the expense of the undoing the Towne. It is Russell: one who abjured the race of the Steuarts; who would admit of none to be burgesses but such as took the tender during the usurpation of Cromwell; and who, by the power of the late Duke and present Earle of Lauderdale, undid all those in Stirling who could serve the King or rule the Towne; was then celebrated for the only loyal man, and got all the rest, (tho of known loyal principles, and regular practises and integrity in their dealings,) to pass for traitors, fanatiques, and knaves. As to many of them, I know he said amiss, which makes me apt to believe he did so by the rest. The present Provost is one who has often ventured his life for the King, who is as honest as any body can be. He knows the Towne, and will give your Lordship good information: it is a place the King considers; and if the Towne were encouraged might yet overcome its difficulties. Your Lordship, in shewing them favor, will do an act of charity; and what is worthy of so good and wise a Minister: and I do assure your Lordship that it will much satisfy all their neighbours to see them thrive, and none more than,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient faithful Servant,

PERTH.

CXXXIV.—From ELIZABETH, DUCHESS of LAUDERDALE.

Whithall, Oct. 28th, 83.

My Lord,—It his ben out of respect to your Lordship, and desire not to trouble you, his made me so long obserue so great sylence. I haue had so great proue of your frindshipp, that I canot dout it; and your justice is so eminently knoue, that ther is no need to doe any thing that may look like imploring your fauour. But yit, such is your high office, and my case at present, (which is like to com into the Session,) it would argue either stupidity or great nedglec, iff I did not, by this frind, the bearer, present my most humble seruiss to you, and desire your protection to my just cause: which is so well understood and noted, that I doe depend upon your Lordship, and your oune candid iustice; which, I am confident, is not to be misunderstood by any aplycations or misinformations made to my freindis.

The case is cleir and just. I desire no more than what was the agreement made amongst us when the E. of Lauderdale was last heir, and the Lord Maitland was present.¹

I haue parted with as much and more in ualie, both rent and inheritance, then I am prouided to; and the debt in England is greater then that in Scotland, considring that the 7000 lb. to Lord Yestir is his Lady's iust due, as hir oune portion.

I haue not much more in rent then wes settled by my contract of mariage. Dudiston was a purchas made since. The last Countess of Lauderdale would haue had a greater rent even in hir daughter's life time, then I haue out of the estait of Lauderdale; for she had Swinton. I haue less out of that estait then was settled by my contract, by so much as is releaced in the ratification.

¹ See above, pp. 43, 49.

If East Lothian had not been setld upon me, Swinton had never been setled as it is by the bond of July.

The debt was greater at the old E. of Lauderdale's death, and even when my Lord did lett to Sir W. Sharpe his last tack, then it is now by more then half, substracing the 7000 lb.

All the personal estait was setled free upon the last Countess of Lauderdale, in the same maner as it was upon me; and she had also monyes asignd hir had she outliued my Lord. Had my Lord out lined me, wee had disposd and setled upon him my hous of Ham, and £700 st., and with all the furniture I haue; which settlements the present Lord Keeper did draw up, and is a wittness to.

I haue sould plate, my lodgins, and the offic I had of New Parke, and disposd all the monys to pay my Lord's debt: so that it is the admiration of all persons, as much as to my selfe, what can be the motiue to induce the E. of Lauderdale and his sonn to talke of new proposals; unless it be because I haue done so much more then euer any hes done before me, and that they do believe I will do all they can seike of me. But in that I desire to be excused; and it is my risolution, by the grace of God, to cast my selfe upon the justice of the law; and neuer in the least to receade from thos terms, which I did take to haue bein as binding upon their honour and conscience as upon myne. And iff they do not confirme their pairt I shall account myself to be releaced. And in that case, as I haue had in all my actions heatherto the just approbation of the most considerable, so I do rest assured that I shall be exhonord when I do insist and plead upon all the settlements and rights, which my most honoured Lord was pleasd at any time to setle upon me.¹

My Lord, I am sensible how much this hes exceided the lenth

¹ "All persones cryes shame upon him for ruining the memory and standing of his family, by giving away Dudiston, &c., in property to his Dutchesse, and Leidington to her son, Huntingtour, (thought by some to be his oune.)"—Fountainhall's *Historical Observes*, p. 75.

of a letter, but I doe present it as my stated case, tho you will haue one more particuler. And seing it wis fitt to giue you this account my selfe, iff I were at a distance to pay my duty to you, I take this to be the next way in which I am able to doe it; tho I doe aske your Lordship ten thousand pardons for the many errors I haue comitted. And I doe confesse to you I should haue been much confused in the offir of it, but that I haue found so much of your goodness and justice to me, that I am by the sence of both made the more bould in doing it. Mr. Maisirs wil present your Lordship with this; to whom I haue giuen full pouers, in all my concerns, to the end that my just rights may not suffer by delayes which may happen from the sending of letters: and seeing I am so fully resolved to insist upon my settlements, ther is no great reason for many letters.

Sir G. Lockert hes been here, to whom I haue imparted my full mynd in all my conserns; and I haue hops your Lordship will fynd my case, in eury article, so iust, that I need not dispaire of a speedy and a happy end. Sure I am the E. of Lauderdale would haue been fully satisfyed only to haue been lett into the Tytle of E. of Lauderdale; and so he did informe the Lord Maitland to say to me; nor is it to be doubted but he would haue been glad of much less then is disposd to him. But that he should be fully satisfyed with all the settlements, as they are made, was never so much as questioned; for, as it was by himselfe confesed, my Lord had free pouer to sell or dispose of his whole estate as hee should pleas; (and in ordere therunto, none was so actiue in promoting my Lord's settlement, under the Broade Seale, as hee and his sonn were;) so is it to be made appeare, by all his actions, that hee hes laid out more monyes to the aduantage of his family then hee did for his owne expence. And this is proued by the two tacks hee made to Sir W. Sharpe of his whole incom, and the profits of his estate for the last eight years of our mariage; as also by the stated accounts of the building at Thirliston Castle: which was

the hous hee fully resolved to setle his family in, and would neuer heare of such arguments as were aleged against it, in preference of Lethinton ; which hee did alwayis say was none of his tytles ; nor was it his antient paternal estate, but only gifted by a lady, and of no more worth but the single touer, and about 200 lb. of rent to it. Hee did ever say ther were diuers Lords greater than his family in East Lothian, but none like his in Lauderdale. And that gaue him occasion to prefer the laying of all the estate he did design to his family contiguous together, as hee did doe, beside the Lordship of Musilburgh. Hee tooke great pleasure in the thoute of being buried in the church of Lauder : which God forgieue thos who did dispose otherwayes.¹

And, in the last place, iff all I haue condicended to part with, and to doe for the family, be not worth the inheritance of so much as is contracted to me : which was my Lord's estate when I did marie him ; in all which I am confirmed by my contract in life rent: it well may be asked what reason I had to induce mee to agree to such consessions. And it cant but be thought fitt in me to plead my oune just right in the whole as well as in any part, in case they shall not make good to me the termes which wee did so fully

¹ "In the end of October, the Duke of Lauderdale's corps arrived in Scotland, and ware set in Inueresk Church ; and he was buried on the 6th day of Aprill, 1683, at the Church of Haddington, beside his ancestors, and the Bishop of Edinburgh preached his funerall sermon. His Dutchesse pressed to have him buried at Lauder, that his lying at Haddington might not seeme like a symbolical possession of that interest their, now dispoised to hir."—Fountainhall's Historical Observes, p. 76.

"5 Aprilis, 1683.—The Duke of Lauderdale is buried. The Bishop of Edinburgh (who was once his creature, but follows all courts) preached the sermon at Inveresk ; the text was i. Corinthi., 15, v. 55.—"O death wheir is thy sting ; O grave wheir is thy victory." Any errors he committed in the end of his dayes, he ascribed to the *serpents*, under rowers, whom he trusted beneath him, meaning his Dutchesse, and brother Halton. If he had dyed some years sooner, he had got more pomp and elogies. At the buriall place in Haddington, on of the beggers called Bell, being drunk, stabbed another in distributing the money that was given them by the friends. He was apprehended, and severall stolen things found on him ; and he being made to touch the dead corps, the wound bled fresch. The tounne of Haddington (who, it seimes, have a Shireff's power) judged him presently, and hanged him over the bridge the next day."—Ibid, p. 93.

agree upon; and in which they were so well satisfied, that even when, by the termes of their ratification ther was, on their part, agreed to free all the movables, and to clear the debts at Ham and in England, they were so contented, as does appeare by the maner Sir W. Sharpe did signe the E. of Lauderdale's ratification. Much more reason was ther for their being abundantly satisfied when the last agreement was made: to which the Lord Glendoich was present and a witness; as was both hee and Lord Marcus, to all the maner of my aids and concurrences in favours of the E. of Lauderdale and his sonn: who was at that time so transported under the sense of it, that hee did say more then was necessary on the subject, and so hes hee writen in diuers letters.

My Lord, I doe most humbly desire your protection and frindshipp, for which I shall, in all the actions of my life, pay all the gratefull acknowledgements I am capable of. I haue been, and I am yet, tender in makeing professions of this kind, and at this time; and I am sure it does proceed from the candor of my nature. I haue had great experienc, and I haue euer found the most forward in professions the most behind in reality; or, iff they are real, they many tims doe hurt by their vaine boasting of intrest and of fauour.

I pray God direct you in your great station, wher ther are so many arts used to deceaue the sinceare and ingenious. Sure I am I doe hate such wayes; and ther is no person whateuer that does, upon the single account of your owne worth, loue and honor you more then I doe, who euer was, and so shall continue to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obliged and most humble Servant,

E. LAUDERDALE.

I am not so well knone to the Countess of Aberdeen as to write to hir: which I humbly desire your Lordshipp to giue for my excuse in the best words you can express: my being hir most humble seruant.

CXXXV.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Desember 25, 1683.

My Lord,—I heartily wishe you a meery Christmas, so that the day will serve to excuss me for a short letter.

Mr. Blathywood this afternoon brought me the inclosed informatione of Thomas Shipard, taken upon oathe befor Mr. Secretary Jenkins. It is the fulest you have yit seene, and more I doubt can not be expected from this. It will, no questione, convinee all good men that thes persons named in it haue bene trafekinge in sutch tresonable practisis. God Almighty defeat the impious desings of disloyall men aganst our most gracious Kinge and his Gouirment. I am,

My dear Lord,
Your most humble and fathefull Servant,
MORRAY.

CXXXVI.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Fæbr. 19, 1684.

My Lord,—Last post brought me the honor of yours of the 9th. E. Middlton is in waetinge, and it was late befor my letters wear sent to my lodginge: I had them not till I caem from Court. This morninge, I waeted on his R. Hig. so sone as he was up, and acquented him with what you recommended to me, bothe conserninge Lord Castilhill and Lutwharine. I also showed him Lord Castilhill's letter to myself: he sayd but littill; but I resolve to spek withe him agaen, and then shall tell you what pasis. I finde Claverous hes bene dealing to haue his Cornet preferd to Sir Francis Ruthven's place, and he will get it. The Dwk tould me he would wryt to you himself of that matter this night, and the

resons why he ought to haue the preference. When you sie them, you will judge best of the matter yourself. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

CXXXVII.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Whythall, Aprile 10, 1684.

My Lord,—The flyeing pakit came hither on Monday last at ten a cloke. The Dwke was that afternoone goeing to Windsor : so I waeted on him emediatly, and delyverd the letters directed to his Highness, which he caeried withe him to show the Kinge. I houp thes perjured witnessess shall reseane ther just punishment for ther villany. The Dwk will himself tell you his own thoughts of the matter.

I believe this post brings a letter from E. Middeltone, he beinge in waetinge, appointinge some day about the middle of May for all of you of the Secret Comitty that intend to come up to be hear, and no soner.

When the depositions takin in the precognitiones betuixt Logy and Lesly com, I shall giue the Dwke ane account of them. I am, withe much sincerety,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most fathefull and humble Servant,

MORRAY.

Ther was on of the late conspirators named Holloway takin in the West Indies. This day he was brought in, and is now under examination. Of this you may expecte a further account by the next.

CXXXVIII.—From Sir ANDREW FORRESTER.

Whitehall, 10th Aprile, 84.

Thursday at night.

May it please your Lordship,—Here is a letter from his Majestie to the Secret Comittie, explaneing the letter formerly sent to your Lordship concerning Mr. Ezekiell Mountgomery;¹ to whom his Majestie allows assurances of a remission, (either for life alone or for life and estate,) to be given, not only for discoveries relating to the rebellion in the year 1679, but also concerning the well of the Governement.

In my last, I gave your Lordship an account of one of the conspirators, (called Holloway,) having been taken in the West Indies; since which, the shipp is arrived wherin he was brought a prisoner from thence; and, upon his examination this day, has not only confirmed all that was sayd by the King's witnesses in the late tryalls, and by the discoverers of that damnable plott, but also has told some things, (very considerable,) which ar kept secret: so that he is like to be of great use to his Majestie's service. At noone the Duke came hither to see her Royal Highnesse, and the Duchesse of Modena, and is not to returne to Windsor before Saterday next at the soonest. From thence I received this day the inclosed for your Lordship from the Earle of Middleton. Ther is now no talk of the King's goeing to Winchester.

Severall noblemen and gentlemen are preparing to goe to the campaign; some intending for the Spanish, but more for the French side.

¹ Sheriff Depute of Renfrew.—See Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. ii., pp. 498, 508, 532, 571.

CXXXIX.—From the LORD MAITLAND.

Pellmell, 10th Apryle, 1684.

My dear Lord,—My wife gave me a full account the last post, except one, off a very kind offer your Lordship was pleased to make in my favours. I doe really value and esteem your obliging keindnes more then the thing it self; and I have as gratefull a sense of your freindship as ane honest man can or ought to have. But I will not accept off it, thogh I might have it this night, till your Lordship come hither and adjuste your other matters off greater concerne: which I hop, and am confident, you will doe much to your advantage and honor. Then I shall be very glad to receave that mark off the King's favour, by your Lordship's intercession with his R. Highnes: that the world may sie it is your own voluntare act, and that I owe the obligation to you. Should any thing be said off it now, I am affrayed it might lessen your Lordship in Scotland; and I had rather never enjoy any public employment, then take any thing that might be constructed a part off your spoys by our newes mungers in Scotland.

I hope you will now be thinking off your jurnay, ffor I long to see you in this place. I hope, if you have any commands in this place, you will employ non but me. As to provideing you a convenient lodging, or any thing else yow may have occasion for heir, lett me know your mynd as to the place, or number of rooms, and rate of the lodging. I know you want a handsome travelling coach. In case you think it fitt to travell that way, I have one at your service, which I will lend your Lordship. My wife had it att the Bath. You may cause paint it over all one plain cullor like my litle chariot I sent home with your coach. This I designed to have done my self, for the armes on it are not right. I hope yow will make no ceremony to accept off it. If yow doe, you most provideid a sett off new wheels, which shall be

my fee for the loane of the coach. It hath whole glasses, and will doe your turne very well.

There is no newes heir att all. A great many young Lords and others are going to the Spanish and Frenche armys. I was discoursing latly with a great man, and telling that it was said in Scotland we had three or fouer named to be Chancellors. He told me he wold hold ane equall lay upon the E. of Aberdein's hand against them all. I pray God send you well to this place. So my dear Lord adieu without ceremony. You know my hand.

My most humble service to my Lady Aberdein and my Lord Haddo.

CXL.—From ALEXANDER, EARL of MORAY.

Windsor Castill, Aprile 26, 1684.

My Lord,—This morning Sir Andrew Forrester came hither and brought withe him the six commissions for the Liuetenands of the severall distriks of Argyleshyr, with the letter from his Majesty to the Councill. I went emediatly and gaue the Kinge account of all, and his Majesty singed them accordingly. But about ane hour after, his R. Highnes cominge hither, I tould him thy waer past the King's hand, but four of them blanke as to the names: so he orderd me not to send them away untill he showld consider of flinge up the names of the Liuetennands in thes commisions. I wonder what could be the resone that all wear not fild up as weall as the Earles of Marr and Pearth's, and no resone giuen for it to any hear; but it is best known to yourselfs. I am,

My Lord,

Your most humble and fathefull Servant,

MORRAY.

On the 10th of July, 1684, Sir John Lauder says:—"The Earl of Perth, Chancellor, the Marquis of Queensberry, High Treasurer, and

the rest of our grandees, arrived at Edinburgh from Court, having carried all their designs against the Earl of Aberdeen." His administration was at an end.

CXLI.—From Sir WILLIAM PATERSON.

My Lord,—I am commanded by the Lords of the Secret Committee to signifie to your Lordship, that, with all convenient dilligence, you would be pleased to send over to this place, by a sure hand, all Letters, Papers, Examinationes, Informationes, and other papers relateing to the publick and the Government, that are in your hands, to lye in retentis amongst the papers and warrands of the Privy Councill. This express, by their Lordship's command, is addressed to your Lordship by,

My Lord,

Your most faithfull and most obedient Servant,

WILL. PATERSON.

Edinburgh, 7th August, 1684.

For the right honorable the Earle of Aberdein :—In heast.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

A.

At Edinburgh, Aprill III., M.DC.LXI.

ACT Rescinding the pretended forfaitour of Sir George Gordoun of Haddo.

FORASMUCH as Sir Johne Gordoun of Haddo, even from the begining of these troubles, did give publick testimony of his loyaltie to his Majestie's Authority, and in the years 1643 and 1644 freely engaged himself in his Majestie's service, and joined in armes with the Marques of Huntlie, his Majestie's leivtennant in the Northern shires of this Kingdome, against such who at that time did oppose and ryse in armes against his Majestie's Authority and Commands, and in this discharge of his dewty in his Majestie's service being taken prissoner, Wes thereafter, in the same yeer, forfaited of his life, fortune, and estate. And his Majestie being obleidged in conscience and honour to have regaird to the sufferings of any of his good subjects for thair faithfulness and loyalty to his Royal father and his Authority, Whaireof the said Sir Johne Gordoun gave signall testimonys, by hazarding all he had for it in his lifetyme, and by sealing it with his blood in the end. Thairfor, his Majestie, with advice and consent of his Estates of Parliament, Rescinds, Cassis, and annulls the pretendit decreit of forfaitour pronounced against him in the yeer 1644, with all acts, interloquiturs, sentences, decreits, or statuts whatsoever, of any Parliaments, Committees of Estates, Commissions, Courts, or Judicatories relateing thairto, or following thervpon, in any sort. And declares the same to have been from the begining, and to be in all time coming, voyd and null. And that his sonne and children may serve themselffs aires and executors respective to him,

according to the lawes of the Kingdom, and brooke and enjoy his fortune, estate, and means als freely and fully in all respects, As if the said decreit of forfaltour, and all that hes followed thairvpon (and whilk now is hereby rescindit and annulled) had never been.—*Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, vol. vii., pp. 102, 103.

B.

COMMISSION nominating Sir George Gordon of Haddo constant PRESIDENT of the SESSION.

Apud Edinburgum primo die Novembris 1681.

The Commission granted by the King's Majestie to the Lords of Session, vnder the Great Seall of the dait the fourteenth day of October last, being produced by the Lord Tarbett, Clerk of Register, was read, of which Commission the tenor followes :—

CAROLUS Dei gratia Magnæ Britanniae Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex Fideique Defensor omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos præsentis literæ pervenerint salutem . Sciatis nos post proximum Parlamenti Sessionem singulas nostras Curias et Judicatoria ita instituere et replere statuentes quo regimen nostrum melius sustineatur subditi nostri dilectentur et justitia omnibus interesse habentibus destribuatur . Et nos benigne satisfacti et plurimum innitentes fidelitati integritati et animi dotibus virorum subtus mentionatorum . Qui Domini et Senatores Collegii nostri Justitiæ ordinarii et extraordinarii respective futuri sunt . Igitur nominasse constituisse et ordinasse tenoreque præsentium nominare constituere et ordinare Dominum Georgium Gordoun de Haddo, Robertum Dominum Nairne, Carolum Maitland de Haltone Thesaurarium nostrum deputatum, Dominum Georgium Mackenzie de Tarbet nostri Registri Clericum Dominum, Jacobum Foulis de Colington, Dominum Davidem Nevey de eodem, Dominum Joannem Lockhart de Castlehill, Dominum Davidem Balfoure de Forrett, Dominum Jacobum Foulis Juniozem de Readfurde, Dominum Davidem Falconer de Newtone, Dominum Alexandrum Seatone de Petmedden,

Dominum Rogerum Hog de Harcarse, Dominum Andream Berne de Saline, Dominum Patricium Ogilvie de Boyne, et Joannem Murray de Druncairne, ordinarios Dominos et Senatores dicti Collegii nostri Justitiæ . Et Joannem Ducem de Lauderdale Secreti nostri Consilii dicti Regni Presidem, Joannem Marchionem de Athole nostri Secreti Sigilli Custodem, Alexandrum Comitem de Murray nostrum solum Status Secretarium, et Willielmum Comitem de Queensberrie nostrum Justitiarium Generalem, Dominos ejusdem extraordinarios . Et dictum Dominum Georgium Gordoun de Haddo absente Cancellario constantem fore ejusdem Presidem . Cum potestate iis sedendi et justitiam administrandi tanta potestate et autoritate et iisdem modis et methodis ab iisdem perprius usitatis vel quæ dict. Dominis ordinariis et extraordinariis et dict. Collegii Justitiæ Presidi debita fore dignoscuntur . Et nos per præsentem ordinamus nostri Secreti Sigilli Custodem juramentum dicti Præsidis . Eumque ita juratum et admissum reliquorum Minorum ordinariorum et extraordinariorum juramentum exigere eosque ad officia sua modo usitato admittere . In cujus rei testimonium præsentibus Magnum Sigillum nostrum appendi mandavimus . Apud aulam nostram de Whitehall decimo quarto die mensis Octobris anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo octogesimo primo et anno regni nostri trigesimo tertio . Per signaturam manu S.D.N. Regis superscript .

After reading of which Commission, the Marquis of Atholl, Lord Privie Sealle, conforme therto, did administer the oath of alledgeance, and the oath or teste ordained to be taken by the late Act of Parliament, to the Lord Haddo, nominate by the said Commission to bee constant President of the Session, who swore these oathes upon his knees, repeating and pronouncing the wholl wordes of the test, as is appoynted by the Act of his Majestie's Privie Councill. And hee having signed the test and the acknowledgment of his Majestie's prerogative and the declaration ordained to be signed by persons in public trust, hee was admitted to his charge, and gave his oath de fideli administratione. And thereafter, the Lord Haddo, President, did administer the oath of alledgeance and the test to the persons after named, who, by the forsaid Commission, are nominate ordinarie Lords of Session, being present, viz. : Charles Maitland of Hattoun, Thesaurer depute ; Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbett, Clerk of Register ; Sir James Foulis of Collington ; Sir David Nevay of that ilk ; Sir John Lockhart of Castlehill ; Sir David Balfour of Forreth ; Sir David Falconar of Newtoun ; Sir Alexander Seatoun of Pitmedden ; Sir Roger Hog of Harcars ; Sir Andrew Bernie of Salin ; Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Boyne ; and John Murray of Druncairne ; And lykways to the Marquis of Atholl, Lord Privie Seall, nominate ane of the extraordinarie Lords : who did all sweare the said oath of alledgeance and the test upon their knees, repeating and pronouncing the wholl wordes of the test. And having signed the acknow-

ledgment of his Majestie's prerogative and the declaration, they were admitted to their charge, and having given their oathes de fideli administratione, they tooke their seates.

Sederunt Domini Sessionis .

Haddo Præses ; Hattoun Thesaurarius deputatus ; Tarbett Clericus Registri ; Collingtoun ; Nevay ; Castlehill ; Forrett ; Newtoun ; Pitmedden ; Harcars ; Salin ; Boyne ; Druncairne ; et Marchio de Atholl privati sigilli custos .

The Lords ordained the forsaid Commission, containing the nomination of them to bee Lords of Session, to bee recorded in the Books of Sederunt, and lykwayes the oath or test appoynted by the sixth Act of the current Parliament to be taken by the persons mentioned in that Act, with the Act of Privie Councill anent the taking of the test, to be recorded in the Books of Sederunt.—*Books of Sederunt, vol. viii.*

C.

COMMISSION of Sir George Gordon of Haddo as SHERIFF-PRINCIPAL of ABERDEENSHIRE.

7th November, 1682.

Chancellor.	Generall Dalzell.
St. Andrew's.	President of Session.
Wintoune.	Thesaurer Deput.
Linlithgow.	Register.
Levingstoune.	Advocate.
Bishop of Edinburgh.	Collintoune.
Elphinstoune.	

The Lord Chancellor having this day acquainted the Councill that, yesterday, he, in presence of a quorum of the Councill, had given his oath de fideli, and taken

the oath of alledgeance, and sworne and signed the test as Sheriff Principall of Aberdeen, conforme to his Majestie's commission granted to him, past under the Great and Privie Seales which was exhibited in Councill: The Lords of his Majestie's Privie Councill doe approve thereof, and ordaines the said Commission to be recorded in their books. Likeas, the Lord Chancellor did, in presence of the Councill, as Sheriffe foresaid, signe the declaration anent the Covenant, and the acknowledgment of his Majestie's prerogative, contained in the elevent Act of his Majestie's first Parliament, in the year 1661.

Follows the Tenor of the Commission.

CAROLUS Dei gratia Magnæ Britanniae Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex Fideique Defensor omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos presentes literæ pervenerint salutem . Sciatis nos intelligentes officium Vicecomitis Vicecomitatus nostri de Aberdeen nunc in manibus nostris vacare . Et ex dimissione et resignatione nostri fidissimi et dilectissimi consanguinei et consilarii Joannis Errolis Comitis etc. nostri antiqui regni Scotiæ Supremi Constabularii nuper Vicecomitis dicti Vicecomitatus ad nostram donationem et dispositionem esse . Nosque cupientes et volentes justitiam omnibus nostris subditis infra limites dicti Vicecomitatus administrari et remedium tempestivum in hunc effectum providere . Necnon fidelitatem et preclaras animi dotes nostri fidissimi et dilectissimi Consilarii Domini Georgii Gordon de Haddo dicti antiqui regni nostri Supremi Cancellarii pro officio Vicecomitis dicti Vicecomitatus Abretonensis obeundo et fungendo per indubitata indicia creberrime expertos . Igitur fecisse constituisse et ordinasse tenoreque presentium facere constituere et ordinare prefatum Dominum Georgium Gordon Supremum Cancellarium antedictum Vicecomitem Principalem dicti Vicecomitatus de Aberdeen . Et damus et concedimus prefato Domino Georgio Gordon (durante nostro beneplacito duntaxat) dictum officium Vicecomitis cum omnibus et singulis priviledgiis etc. . . . In cujus rei testimonium presentibus Magnum Sigillum nostrum appendi mandavimus apud Curiam nostram de Newmarket decimo sexto die mensis Octobris anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo octogesimo secundo et anno regni nostri trigesimo quarto . Per signaturam manu S.D.N. Regis suprascriptam.—*Privy Council Register.*

D.

PATENT of NOBILITY of the EARL of ABERDEEN.

Apud Edinburgum septimo die Decembris, 1682.

Sederunt :

Chancellor.	Breadalbane.
St. Andrews.	Bishop of Edinburgh.
Thesaurer Principall.	Levingstoune.
Privy Seall.	Elphinstoune.
Montrose.	Generall Dalyell.
Wintoune.	President of Session.
Linlithgow.	Thesaurer Deput.
Perth.	Register.
Dumfreise.	Advocate.
Southesk.	Collintoune.
Twedall.	Abbotshall.
Balcarras.	Generall Lieutenant Drumond.
Dundonald.	

His Majestie's Patent of Honor underwritten being read, was ordered to be recorded, and was thereafter delivered by the Lord High Thesaurer to the Earle of Aberdeen, Lord High Chancellor, who received the same on his knees. Follows the tenor of the Patent :—

CAROLUS Dei gratia Magne Britannie Francie et Hibernie Rex Fideique Defensor omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem . Quandoquidem nos animo reputantes fidissimum et dilectissimum nostrum Conciliarium Dominum Georgium Gordon de Haddo Summum nostrum antiqui Regni nostri Scotie Cancellarium familie et gentis vere honorande personam gerere et patrimonium vetustissimum in dicto regno sui per plurima retro secula a majoribus suis plurimis eximiis et nobilibus ejusdem regni gentibus et familiis sanguine et affinitate conjunctis demissum hereditarie possidere . In memoriam pariter revocantes plurima eximia et intemerate fidei officia diademati nostro prestita et peracta per majores ejusdem Domini Georgii Gordon quibus scilicet belli togeque in diversis summe fiducie muneribus et officiis progenitoribus nostris inservire fuerat honori . Quibus quidem officiis fideliter semper et strenue functi sunt

summa queque obstacula et angustias ipsos officia obeuntes partibusque nostris et corone firmiter adherentes sepiissime comitantia prorsus spernentes adeo ut non interrupta sucessionis serie cum re sua familiari simul inconcussam et intaminatam erga nos regionesque nostros progenitores fidelitatem et integritatem ad heredes suos et successores transmiserint . Nosque precipue grato admodum animo recordantes insignem et memorabilem fidelitatem et integritatem patris prefati Domini Georgii Gordon cujus preclara servitia et perdura gravamina que silicet et legitima nostra et diadematis nostri jura propugnando et speciatim patris nostri charissimi jura et commoda vindicando perpessus est tanquam durable quoddam monumentum in stirpis generisque sui honorem permanent . Ille enim signo militari Regio ad fatalem illam et execrandam rebellionem in utroque regno postea erumpentem prevertendam et supprimendam erecto re sua familiari liberisque suis ilico posthabitis (unde illi singulis miseriis angustiis et calamitatibus quas implacabiles isti et furiosi rebelles ipsis infligere valebant obnoxii reddebantur) ad dictum regale vexillum statim se contulit dictoque nostro patri in extremo belli discrimine adversus rebelles in Anglia strenue inserviit postmodum autem prefato nostro patri (illius fidei conductui et erga servitium suum amoris plurimum innitenti) visum est eundem sub titulo loci-tenentis sub Georgio tum Marchione de Huntley in dictum regnum Scotie remittere . Que quidem secundum dicti nostri patris mandata utque ipsius commodum et servitium quantum in se esset promoveret dictum officium alacriter suscepit idemque strenue et fideliter exolvit inter primos quippe in dicto antiquo regno nostro ad jura corone propugnanda et rebelles supprimendos armis insignis apparuit . Quorum quidem rebellium copiis indies adauctis in eorum potestatem captivus tandem redditur et ab iis nonnullis mensibus in arcta custodia detentus tandem (omnibus regni legibus et privilegiis inter homines jure gentium sacris violatis et penitus infractis et eversis) per sententiam sceleratissime rebellium colluviei damnatus et ab iis pariter vita et re familiari exutus et barbaramente nefarie et inhumaniter super theatro publico trucidatus et obtruncatus adeo ut pro nobis et diademate nostro martirium subiisse meritissime dicatur . Ipsi autem execrandi rebelles injustitie et illegalitatis processus sui adversus illum adeo erant conscii ut postquam ipsum in judicio stitissent (regia usurpata autoritate) specioso et fucato quodam edicto omnia ab illo in prefati nostri patris mandatorum obsequium sueque fidei ligie et integritatis tesseram prestita et peracta perduellionis crimen omni tempore futuro æquipollere exinde summam fidelitatem et subditorum fidem legiam pro sceleratissimo criminum mundo obtrudentes declaraverint . Nosque pariter haud minus censentes prefatum nostrum fidissimum et dilectissimum Consiliarium Dominum Georgium Gordon de Haddo Summum Cancellarium antedictum majorum suorum fide et dignitate memorabilium vestigia pressisse et parata firma et indomita rebus nostris adhesionem eorum exemplum insectasse . Cumque nobis dilucide constet de splendidis ejusdem animi dotibus et

facultatibus (quorum plurima insignia et indubitata edidit testimonia) que ipsum tanquam maxime fiducie munus et officiorum intra dictum regnum nostrum capacem et dignum nobis exhibuerunt utpote qui unius ex nostri Secreti Concilii Dominis deinde unius ex Senatoribus Collegii nostri Justitie postea ejusdem Collegii Presidis et nunc demum Summi nostri ejusdem antiqui regni Cancellarii summa integritate et zelo fidem inclute exolvit . In quibus omnibus obeundis sese tanta prudentia moderatione equitate et justitia commoda et jura precipue respiciens ex animi nostri sententia gerebat adeo ut a nobis nostrisque subditis merito fuerit approbatus . Cumque honori et justicie nostre apprime convenire videatur ut tam insignia servitia fidelitatem et gravamina per prefatum fidissimum et dilectissimum nostrum Consiliarium suosque majores toties repetita et manifestata suasque etiam splendoris animi dotes in commodo et servitio nostris promovendis indefessim occupatas debite et grate estimemus et agnoscamus nosque pariter rationibus quibus supra commoti inque justissime nostre eorundem servitiorum estimationis signum et indicium utque quanti illum habeamus notum sit durabilem quandam et insignem regalis nostri favoris tesseram in illum ejusque familiam et posteris (ad sublimiorem splendoris et dignitatis gradum evehendos) conferre apud nos benigne statuentes ut animus ipsis addatur quo posthac in fidelitate sua et officiis erga nos regiosque nostros successores firmiter persistent utque validiores reddantur ad quevis munera et officia que ipsis dehinc in nostro servitio committentur obeunda .

SCIATIS igitur nos intelligentes omnes honoris et dignitatis titulos intra dominia nostra a diademate nostro regali tanquam a primo fonte in subditos nostros de nobis bene meritos unice promanare NOMINASSE FECISSE et CONSTITUISSE et CREASSE sicuti nos per presentes NOMINAMUS FACIMUS CONSTITUIMUS et CREAMUS memoratum fidissimum et dilectissimum nostrum Consiliarium Dominum GEORGIUM GORDON de Haddo COMITEM VICECOMITEM et LIBERUM PARLIAMENTI DOMINUM COMITEM DE ABERDEEN VICECOMITEM DE FRUMERTIN et DOMINUM HADDO METHLICK TARVES et KELLIE designandum . Et damus concedimus et conferimus in dictum Dominum Georgium Gordon et heredes masculos ex suo corpore predictum Titulum Honorem Gradum et Dignitatem Comitum Vicecomitum et liberi parlamenti Domini ut prefertur cum potestate illi suisque predictis eodem Titulo fruendi et gaudendi cum omnibus et singulis prerogativis precedentibus preheminentibus privilegiis libertatibus et immunitatibus quibuscunque ei spectantibus et pertinentibus quibus quidem omnibus per presentes prefatum Dominum Georgium Gordon investimus et nobilitamus et precipue cum libero in parlamenti suffragio . TENENDUM et HABENDUM predictum titulum honorem gradum et dignitatem Comitum Vicecomitum et liberi parlamenti Domini cum omnibus prerogativis preheminentibus precedentibus privilegiis libertatibus immunitatibus aliisque quibuscunque ei spectantibus prefato domino Georgio Gordon ejusque predictis de nobis et successoribus nostris in omnibus parlamenti ordinum conventibus generalibus conciliis aliisque publicis et privatis ejusdem

regni congressibus quibuscunque tam plenarie et libere in omnibus respectibus et conditionibus quam quicunque alius comes vicecomes seu liber parlamenti dominus tali titulo honore et dignitate potitus et gavisus est seu quovis tempore preterito presenti seu futuro frui et gaudere poterit . Per presentes etiam mandamus Leoni nostro Regi Armorum et fratribus suis fecialibus ut talia additamenta priori ejusdem paludamenta qualia ipse illique convenientia existimabunt prout in talibus consuetum est dent et prescribant . Et denique declaramus et ordinamus hasce literas nostras patentes sub Magno et Secreto Sigillis nostris debite expeditis adeo validas et sufficientes fore prefato Domino Georgio Gordon ejusque predictis pro fruitione dicti Tituli Honoris Gradus et Dignitatis Comitum Vicecomitum et liberi parlamenti Domini cum omnibus privilegiis aliisque quibuscunque eo spectantibus eodem modo adeoque plenarie et libere ad omnia intenta et proposita quam si ipse ejusque predicti in iisdem cum omnibus solemnitatibus et ceremoniis talibus casibus antiquitus usitatis investiti et inaugurati essent . Quocirca nos pro Nobis et successoribus nostris tenore presentium dispensamus in perpetuum . IN CUJUS REI TESTIMONIUM presentibus Magnum nostrum et Secretum Sigillum appendi mandavimus . Apud aulam nostram de Whitehall trigesimo die mensis Novembris anno Domini supra millesimo sexcentesimo octogesimo secundo regnique nostri trigesimo quarto . Written to the Great Seale, and registrat the seventh day of December, 1682 . Subscribitur Will. Kerr . Sealed with the Privy Seale, the seventh day of December, 1682, and the warrand is keeped at the Great Seale . Subscribitur Geo. Dallas . Sealed with the Great Seale at Edinburgh, the seventh day of December, 1682 . Subscribitur Jo. Cunynghame.—*Privy Council Register.*

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